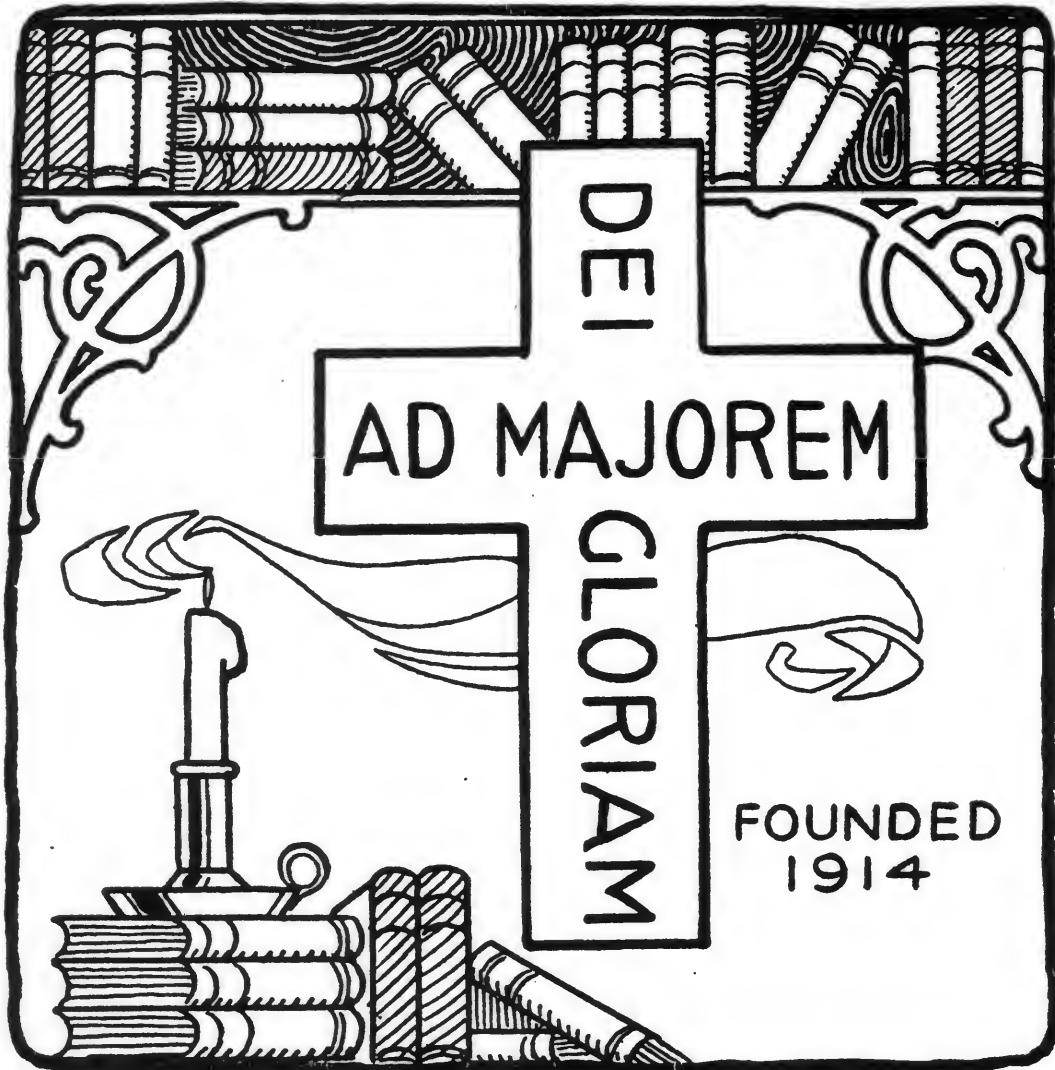


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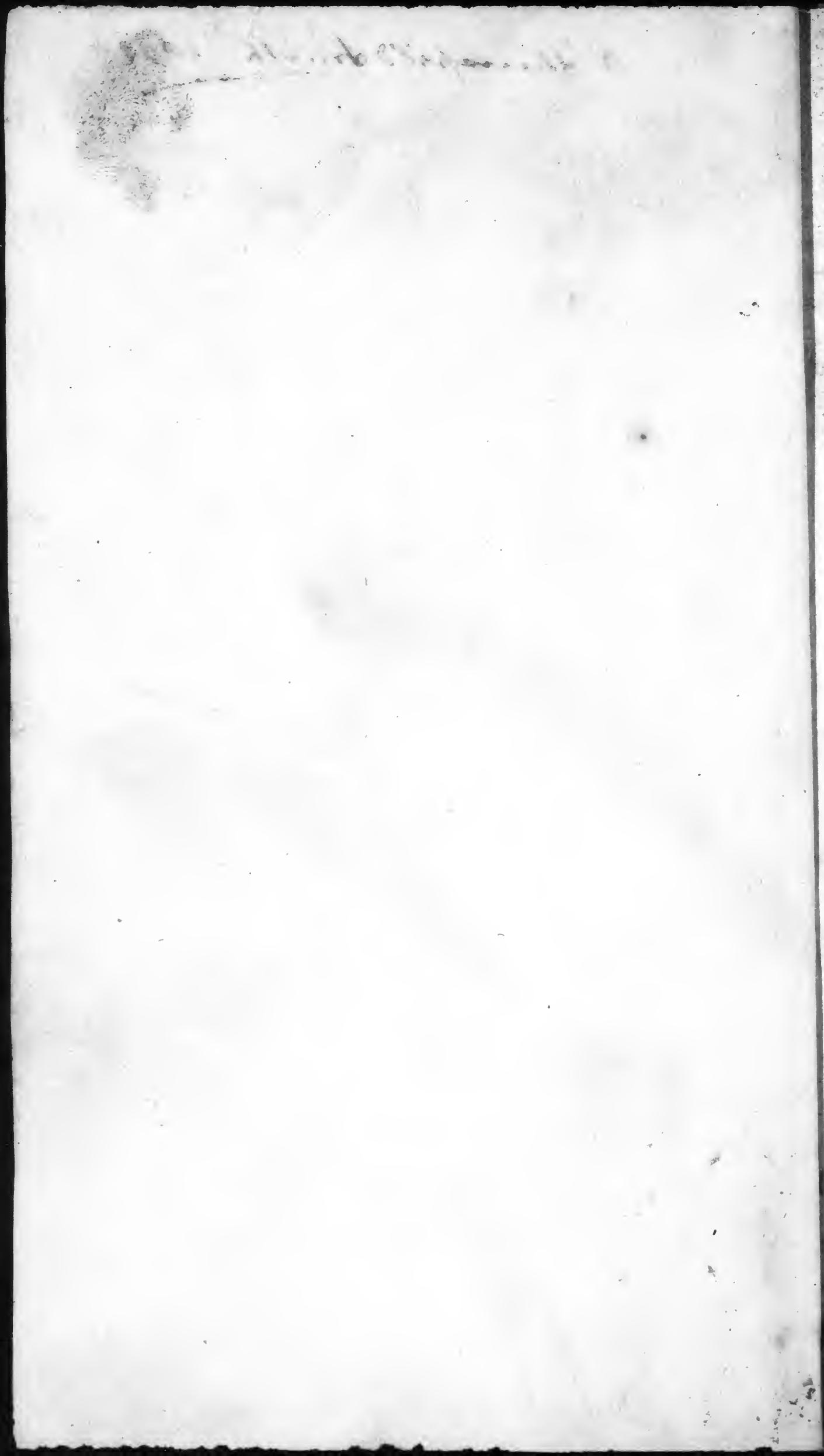
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1842



Ann Shortland
Book

MEMOIRS
OF 922.7
Mrs. Grace Bennet,

LATELY DECEASED;

RELCIT OF

THE REV. JOHN BENNET;

OF
Chinley, Derbyshire;

Interspersed with some account of the Ministry and Death of

MR. BENNET:

TO WHICH ARE SUBJOINED

EXTRACTS FROM HER DIARY,

AND

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF HER DEATH,

February 23, 1803.

IN THE

Eighty-ninth Year of her Age.

By WILLIAM BENNET.

MACCLESFIELD:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY E. BAYLEY:

Also by T. Conder, Bucklersbury, London;
and I. Smith, Sheffield.

2s. 6d. Boards.

1803.

ADVERTISEMENT.

AS my apology to the Religious Public, for printing Memoirs of a private Individual, who spent so considerable a part of her life in deep Retirement, I submit to them the following Extract from a Letter addressed to myself, which I found among her papers after her decease, dated May — 1798.

"My dear W.

I have left behind me some broken hints of my life, for you to do with as you shall see good. They are written with great simplicity, but contain the truth. I might have said much more, for I have omitted many things which I passed through, that might perhaps have been useful to some. But I would rather say less than more, hav-

ing always been afraid of saying or doing wrong.—God did wonders for me all my life. I have been astonished and overwhelmed with a sense of his Love to me the chief of Sinners—the most unfaithful and unprofitable of all his servants. That has been my greatest affliction for years past, my Non-improvement of grace! Let this be a spur to you, my dear W.! Oh, for a happy meeting in the house above!

“ Before you read this, I shall be adoring in the presence of the Sacred Three-One, through the blood of the Lamb. The Lord help you to fight the good fight of faith; and may all your enemies fall under your feet! God is greater than all the powers of hell, and greater than your heart, though it is most treacherous. To his grace I commend you, my once cheerful child! Thy face oft-times hath cheered me. Farewell, till we meet in the morning of the resurrection!

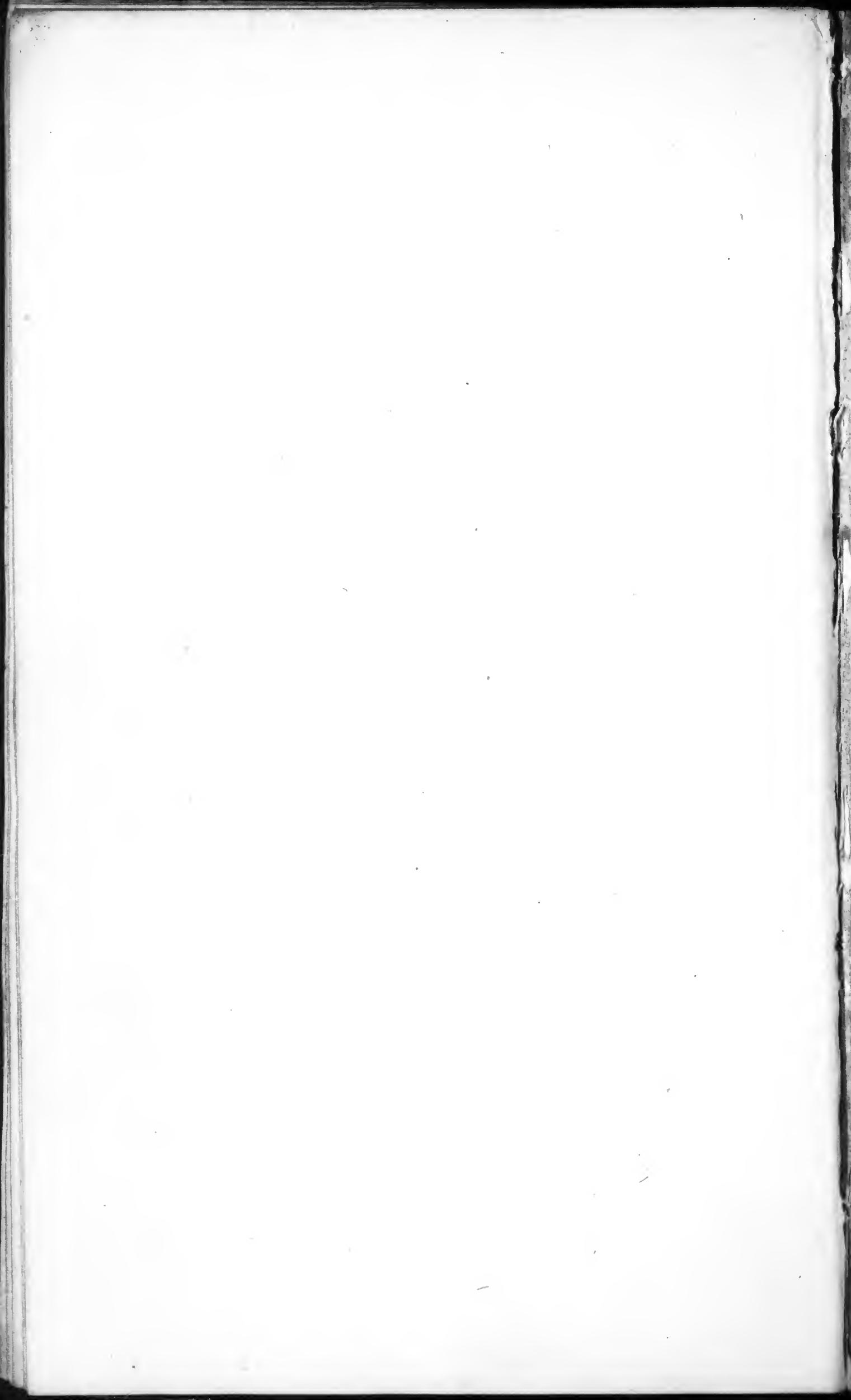
GRACE BENNET.

I am sensible, that publications like the present are but ill suited to the taste of curious and capricious readers. Such will probably treat many things in it with a sneer of contempt. But, if any humble praying souls shall derive advantage from it, in being excited to closer communion with God and their own hearts, or strengthened in their conflicts with sin and Satan; my highest aim will be attained. To the blessing of the Divine Spirit, therefore, I commend the perusal of it.

WILLIAM BENNET.

*Stodard, August
26, 1803.*





M E M O I R S, &c.



IT being the chief design of these memoirs, to give some account of God's gracious dealings with the deceased, and of those spiritual exercises she passed through in her long course of Christian experience, so far as may be profitable unto others; there is no necessity of saying much respecting her family-connections. Suffice it, therefore, to observe, that she was the daughter of *Robert* and *Grace Norman*, of *Newcastle-upon-Tyne*, who were members of the church of England, and that she was born there, on the 23d day of January, 1715.

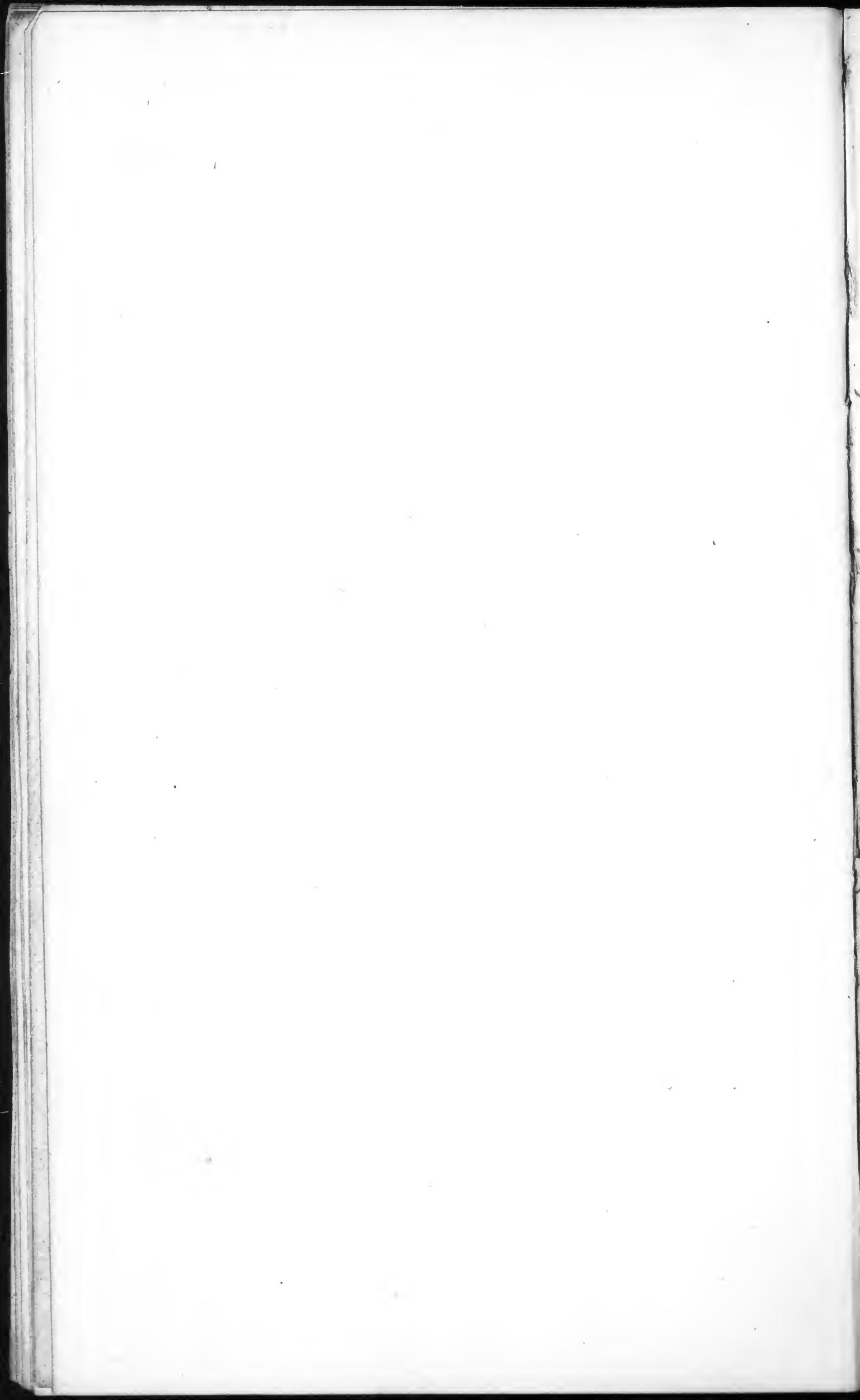
From the brief narrative which she left behind her it appears, that religious impressions were made upon her mind at a very early period in life, and that she had experienced convictions of sin even from *four* years of age; particularly one, that never left her till it pleased God to take away the sense of guilt from her conscience, which was not for

A

many years after. These had a powerful influence on her conduct, in leading her to read the word of God with great diligence, though she did not properly understand it, and to feel a pleasure in attending on public Worship both parts of the Lord's-day. Nor was she, even then, a stranger to the drawings of divine Love, which sometimes filled her heart with unspeakable pleasure in the house of God, that she said within herself, "Oh that I might live here for ever!" One instance of this in particular occurred, when she was about *seven* years old; of which she frequently made mention in advanced life; as an early token of that special grace, by which she was afterwards called into the fellowship of Christ.

These pleasing impressions continued till she was sent to the *dancing-school*; which proved a great snare to her, and in a considerable measure destroyed all her taste for religion. Having a fine flow of spirits, and being esteemed a good dancer, she became an object of admiration, and her company was much solicited in circles of gaiety and amusement. "Dancing, she observes, was my darling sin, and I had thereby nearly lost my life; but God was merciful, and spared the sinner." Her sense of the danger and evil of this practice was such, that she could never once be prevailed on, after she became truly religious, to join even in the most private circle of such amusement; nor did she approve of Christian parents sending their chil-





dren to dancing-schools, though no one had a higher sense of the propriety of instructing them in all the rules of good behaviour.

About the age of twenty-one she changed her name to that of *Grace Murray*, by which she was afterwards so well-known among the people called *Methodists*; being married to Mr. *Alexander Murray*, nearly related to a considerable family of that name in Scotland; whose father, being concerned in the Rebellion of 1715, forfeited his estate, and with several brothers was banished the kingdom. Mr. *M.* being thus disinherited, and not having been brought up to any secular business, turned his attention to a seafaring life, in which he continued to the time of his death.

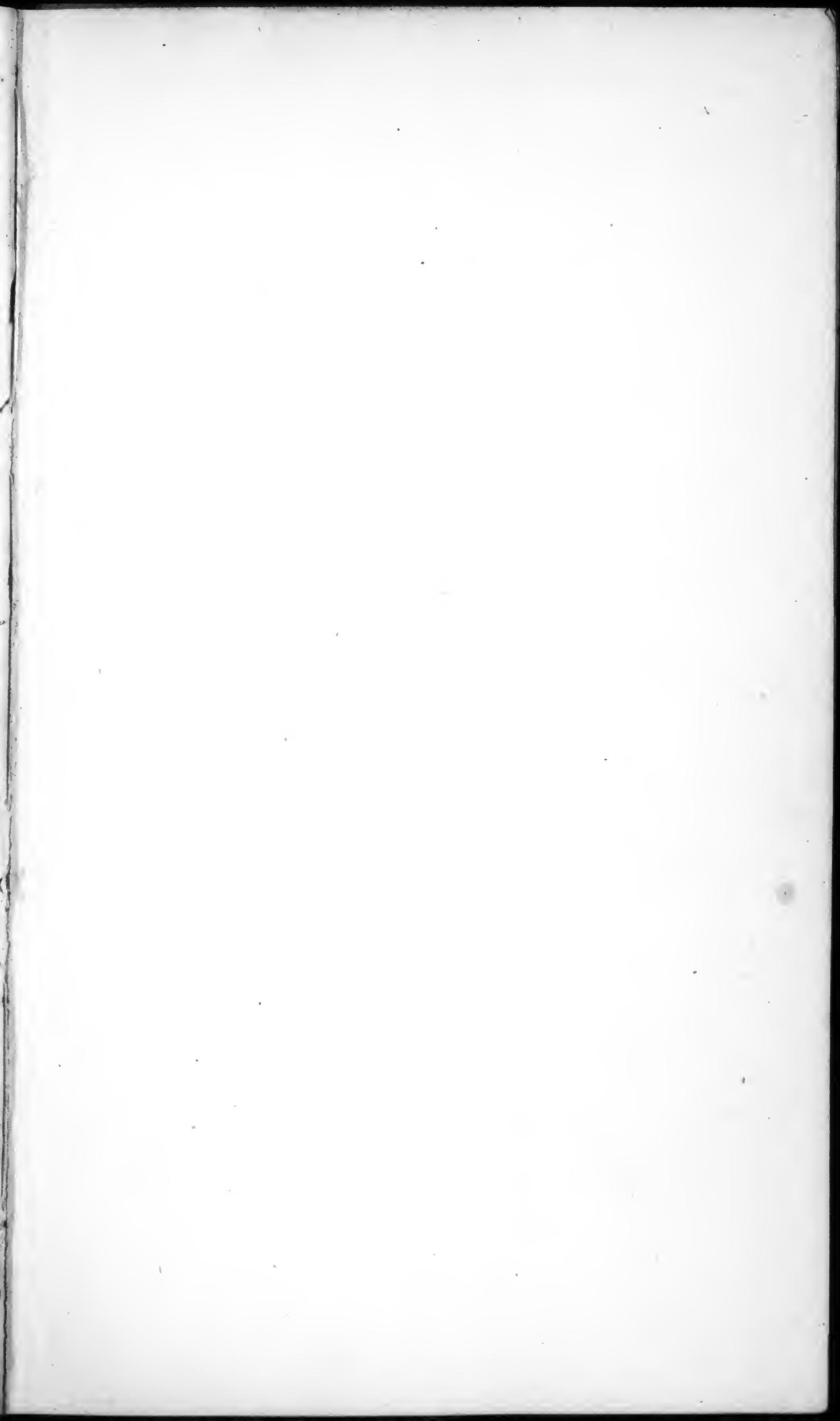
For some time after her marriage with Mr. *M.* she continued in all the vanities of the world; tenderly beloved by her husband, and distinguished in circles of mirth by the sprightliness of her air, and the enchanting modulations of her voice, which was peculiarly sweet and of great compass, in singing.

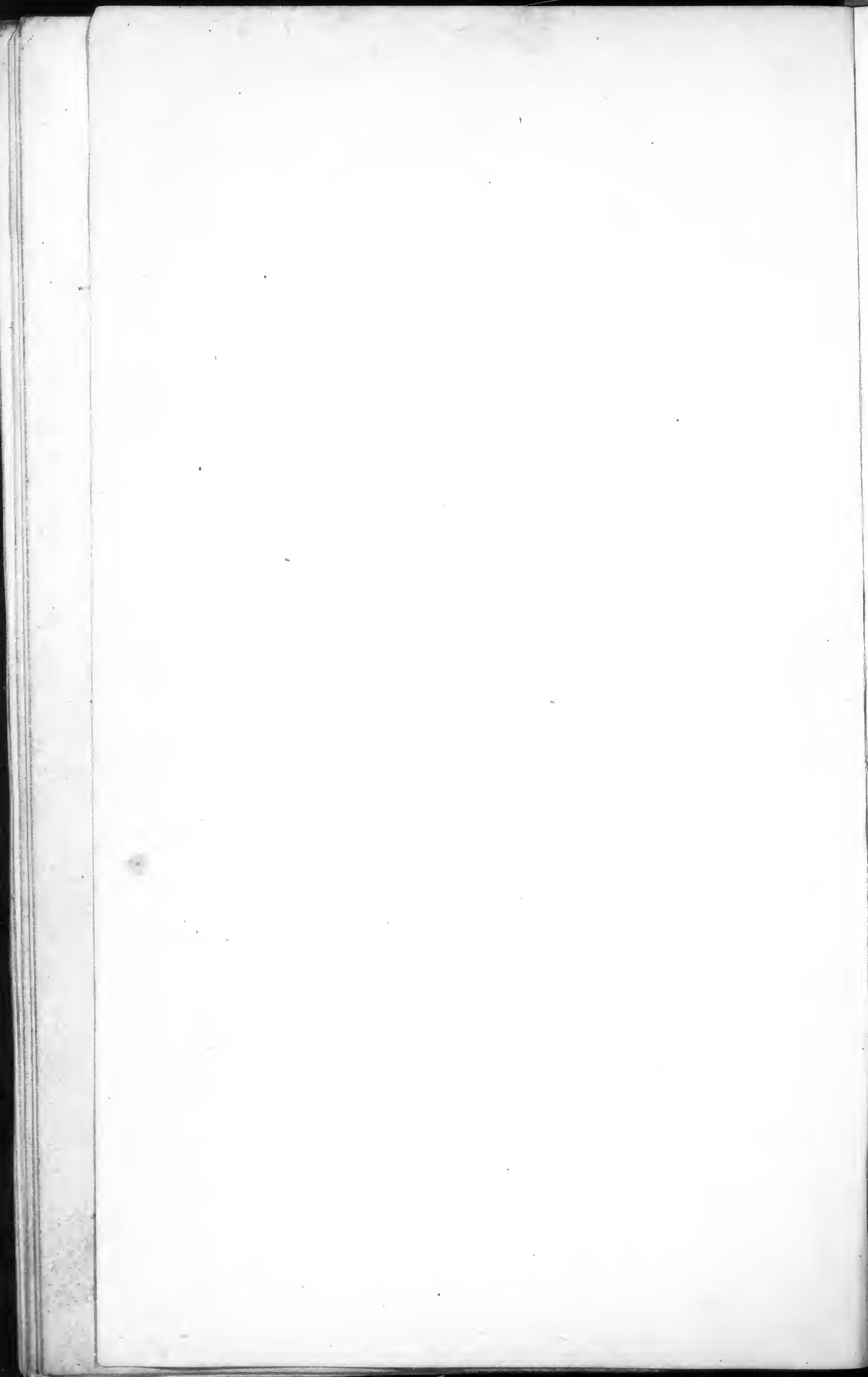
The providence of God, however, in a peculiar manner interposed, to abate her love of worldly pleasures, and awaken her to the pursuit of more noble and satisfying delights; of which she gives the following account:—"Mr. *M.* being taken ill at *Portsmouth*, sent for me. I went, and took my child with me, which was about 14 months old, and staid there about six weeks. We boarded at the house of a widow-lady, who had two daugh-

ters. Twice every day she passed by my room, with her book under her arm, and her daughters with her, to retire into her chamber to prayers. This struck me in such a manner, that I wished to do as she did. Oh the goodness of God! it astonishes me even now to think of it, how I must be brought hither, to be taught to pray! yes, I believe I began to pray in the spirit in that house. The Lord had fastened something on my mind there, which I could never shake off."

Under this impression she returned with Mr. Murray to *London*, and thus was her mind gradually disposed to be favourably wrought upon by succeeding events, which, through the influence of the Divine Spirit, issued in her effectual conversion.—These things, with many other circumstances of her first religious connections, I shall relate in her own words; which contain a brief sketch of the rise and early progress of the *Methodist-Societies* in various parts of the kingdom.

"When we returned to *London*, she observes, all places rang with the fame of Mr. *Whitefield*, who had introduced the practice of *field-preaching*. I said, poor gentleman! he is out of his mind; so foolish was I, and ignorant! but he continued to blow the Gospel trumpet all round *London*, &c. I found a strong desire to hear him, but my husband would not give his consent. It was not long, however, before Mr. *M.* was called away to his occupation; and just after his depar-



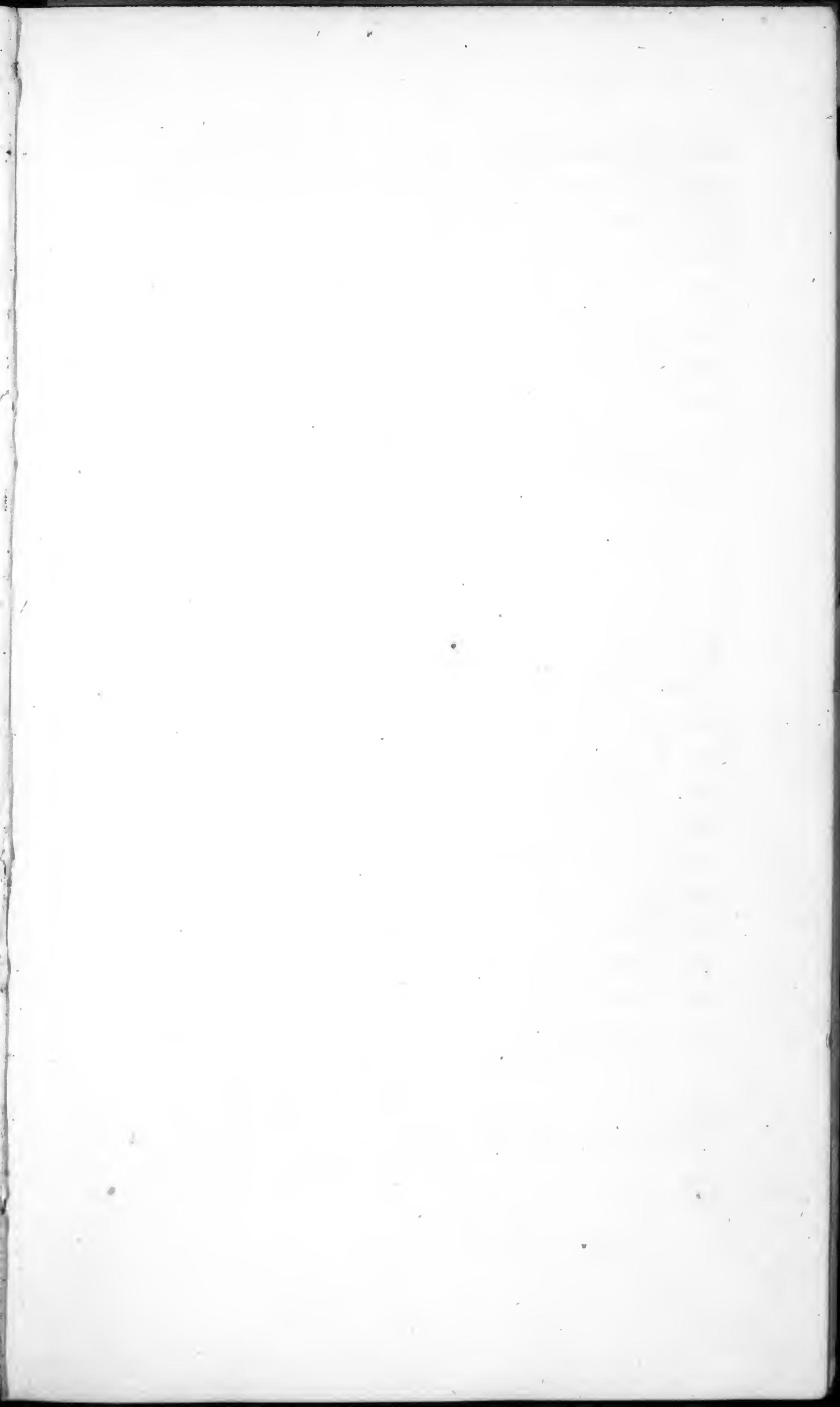


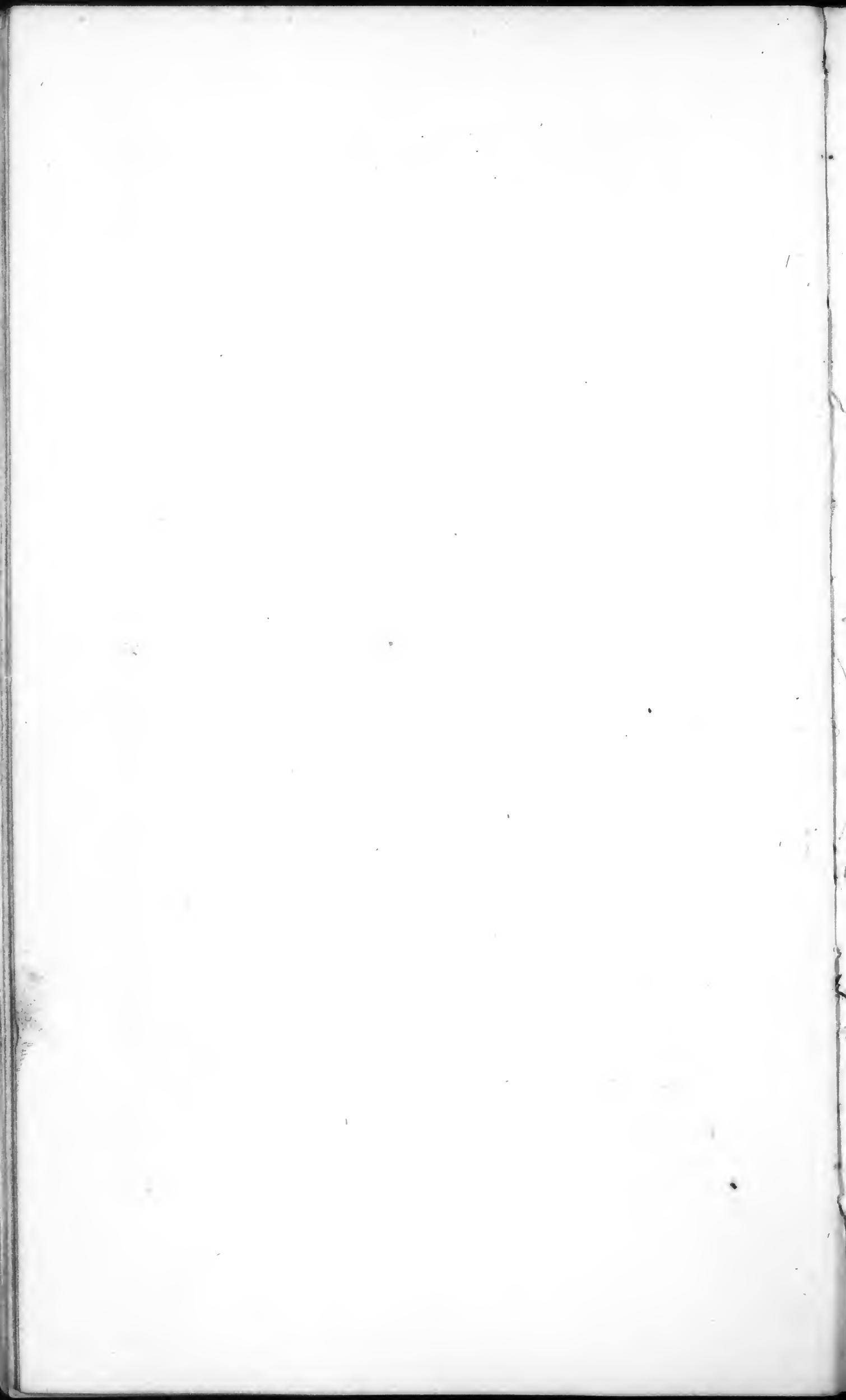
ture my child sickened, and God was pleased to take her unto himself. When the child was dying, I was constrained to kneel down; and having a book with a prayer in it for a *departing soul*, I read this, and gave up my child into the hands of God. This amazed my sister, who had never seen it thus with me before. After the child was interred, I was brought into such lowness of spirits, that I could rest in no place. I lost my relish for all worldly pleasures; and, though I was taken from place to place to divert me, it was to no purpose. I wanted—but I knew not what.—Once, at my sister's, looking upward I thought the firmament was all in a smoke; upon which I went in greatly terrified, and said to my sister, ‘I don't know what is the matter with me, but I think it is *my soul*.’ She replied, ‘your soul, child! you are good enough for yourself and me too.’ Poor creature! she was as ignorant as myself! But I could rest in no place; the Lord had made the wound, and no earthly balm could cure it. Oh that I could sufficiently praise him for his great mercy to me a poor sinner!”

“Mr. *Whitefield* was gone down the river *Thames* for *Georgia*, but an embargo was laid on all ships outward-bound, for some time, we being then at war with *Spain*; therefore he returned from *Gravesend* to *London*. A young person in our neighbourhood, having heard of my distress, sent me word she was going to *Blackheath* to hear Mr.

Whitefield, and would be glad of my company. Accordingly I went with her; and before we reached the place we heard the people singing hymns. The very sound set all my passions afloat, though I did not know one word they uttered; which plainly shews, how the affections may be greatly moved, while the understanding is quite dark. At the time appointed Mr. *Whitefield* came, and young Mr. *Delamotte* in a chaise with him. When he stood up I was struck with his appearance; I thought there was something in his face I never saw in any human face before. His text was our Lord's address to Nicodemus in Joh. iii. 3. *Verily, verily I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.* He enlarged on the *Newbirth*, but I understood him not, and wondered what it was, *to be born again*. So long as the embargo continued, I went to hear him; and when he was gone, I was worse than ever, though I do not think my understanding was at all enlightened. My distress grew very heavy, nor had I one, that I could open my mind unto; I was bound in misery and iron, and could not get loose, till it pleased God to send Mr. *John Wesley* into *England*, just as Mr. *Whitefield* sailed for *Georgia*.* The same person, who had invited me to go with her to hear Mr. *Whitefield*, sent to inform me, that Mr. *John Wesley* would preach in *Moorfields* the next morn-

* This was in the year 1738-9. See Mr. Wesley's first Journal, p. 68.





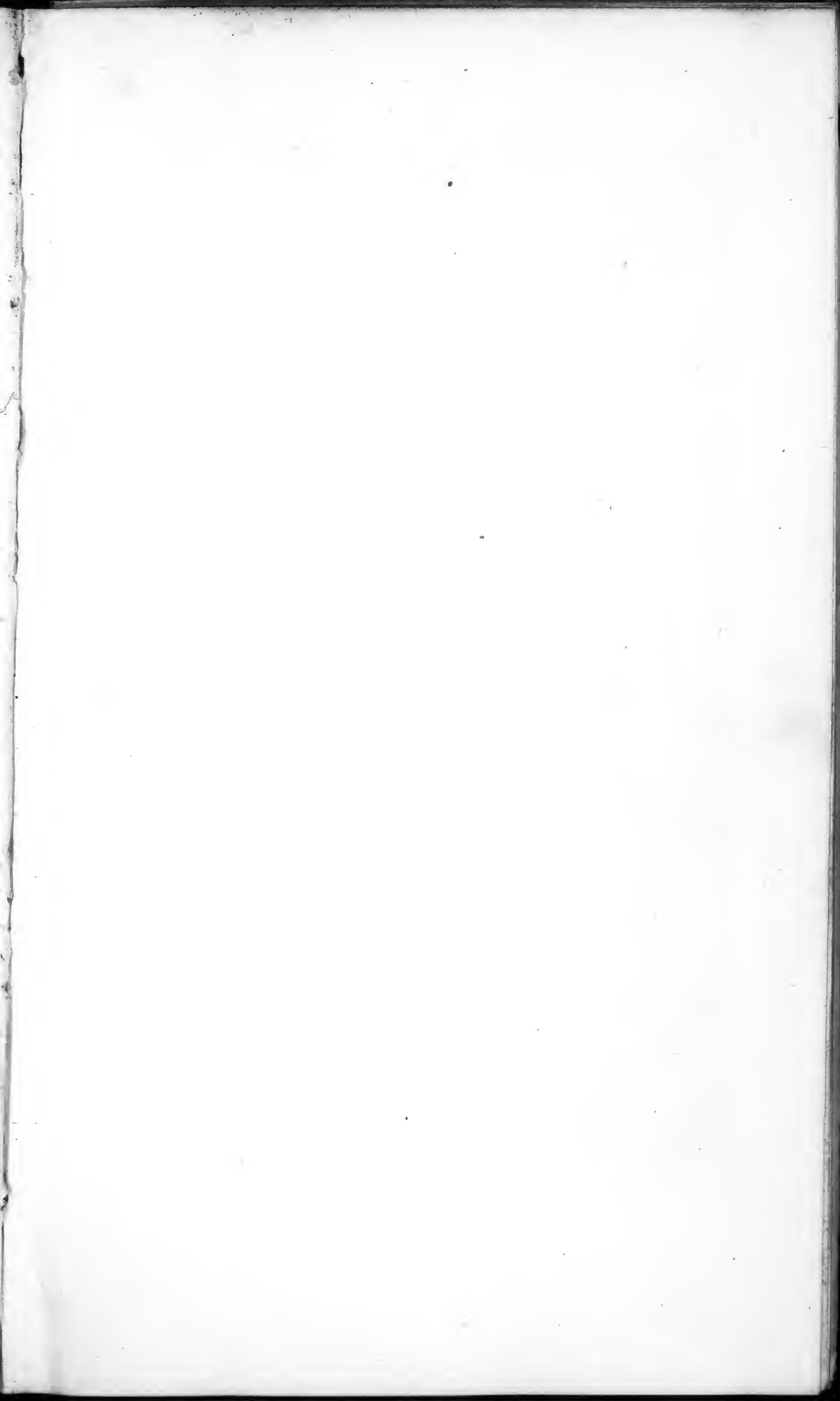
ing at five o'clock. I rose, and got there with the first, before Mr. W. came. I do not remember what passage of Scripture he preached upon; but in his discourse he said, 'Is there any one here, that has a true desire to be saved?' My heart replied, 'yes, I have.' He added, 'My soul for thine, if thou continue laying at the feet of Jesus.' On this word I took hold; for I was like a person drowning, who would catch hold of any thing to save life; but what it was, to lay at the feet of Jesus, I knew not, for I was as ignorant of the way of salvation by the Son of God, as a horse or a mule. I attended all preachings; I lost no opportunities; I got acquainted also with many of the people of God, which was a blessing to me. The Lord now shewed me, that *I was a Sinner*, and that *I wanted a Saviour*. I groaned under my burden of sin for some months. One day, however, as I was reading in the fifth chapter of the epistle to the *Romans*, I was filled with light and love; I saw my lost estate in Adam, and my recovery by Christ Jesus; my soul was overpowered, and I cried out to those that were with me, 'If all the devils in hell were dancing round me, I fear them not.' I was as sensible, when the guilt of sin was removed from my conscience, as a man pressed under a load is sensible, when it is taken off his shoulders. Now therefore, God having set my soul at liberty, he opened my lips to praise him; and all that flow of spirits, which I had felt in the vanities of the

world, was directed towards God. I began to reprove sin in all around me, nor durst I suffer it upon my brother in any wise. Now I could say

All the vain things that charm'd me most,
I sacrifice them to his cross.

“ Mr. *Charles Wesley* having desired as many as could to write out their experience, I wrote mine, and sent it. He requested that I would come and speak with him the next morning, which I did; but shall never forget his piercing look. He examined me very closely; I answered him with simplicity, so far as I knew. When I was coming away, he said, ‘ I will propound you to be a Member of our Society.’ The next meeting therefore I was desired to stay; and a happy meeting we had.”

“ About four months after this, as I was walking in my own room, one morning, in the same place where God was pleased to remove the burden of my guilt, I felt as if some powerful hand had pulled me down upon my knees to prayer; and whether I was in the body, or out of the body, I know not, but I saw what no human tongue can express, neither durst I utter, concerning the glory of the Divine Persons in the Godhead: I was also made sensible, that God the Father accepted me in his Son, as if I had not committed one sin, and that the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ was imputed to me for my justification, with all that he had purchased by his life and death; and at the



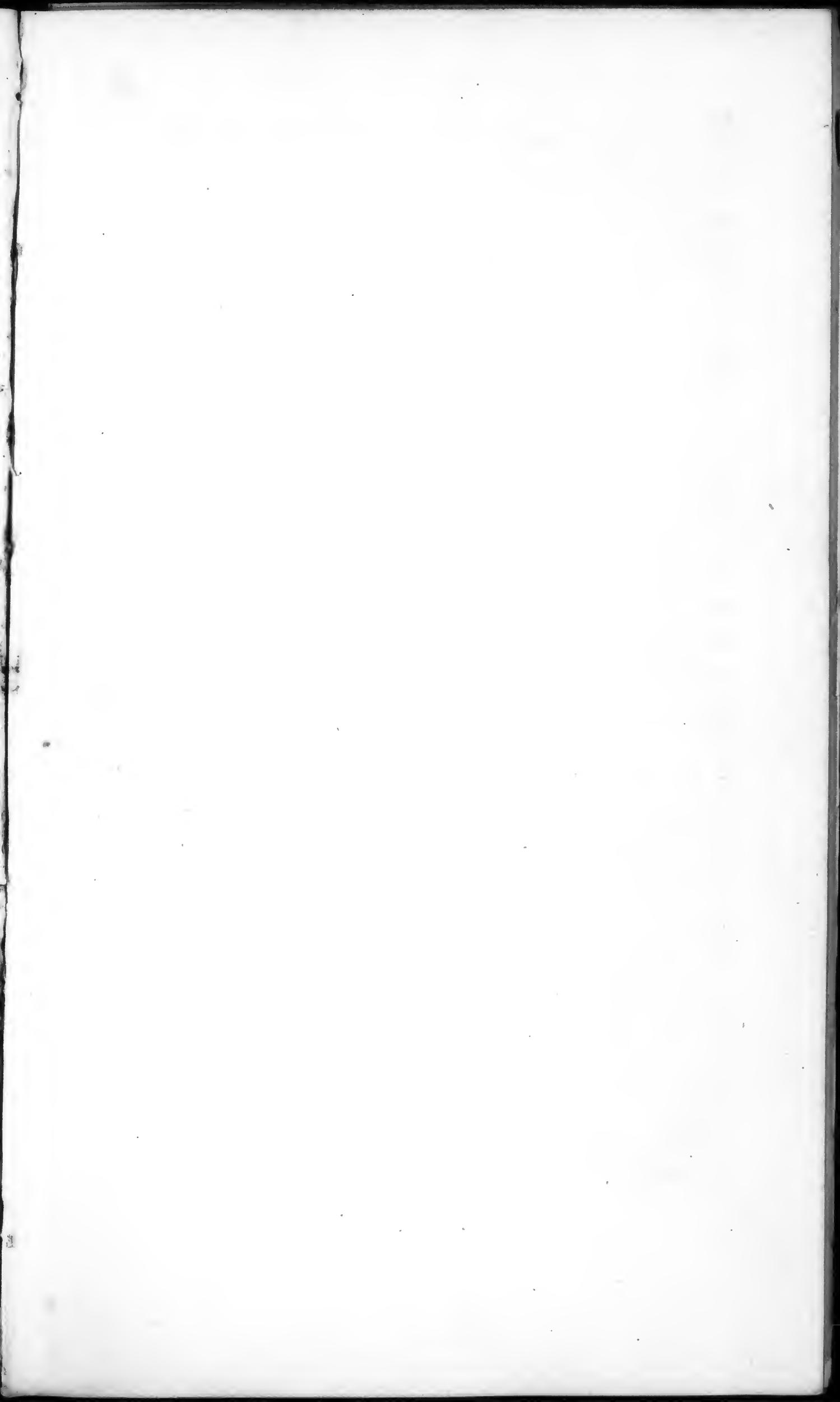
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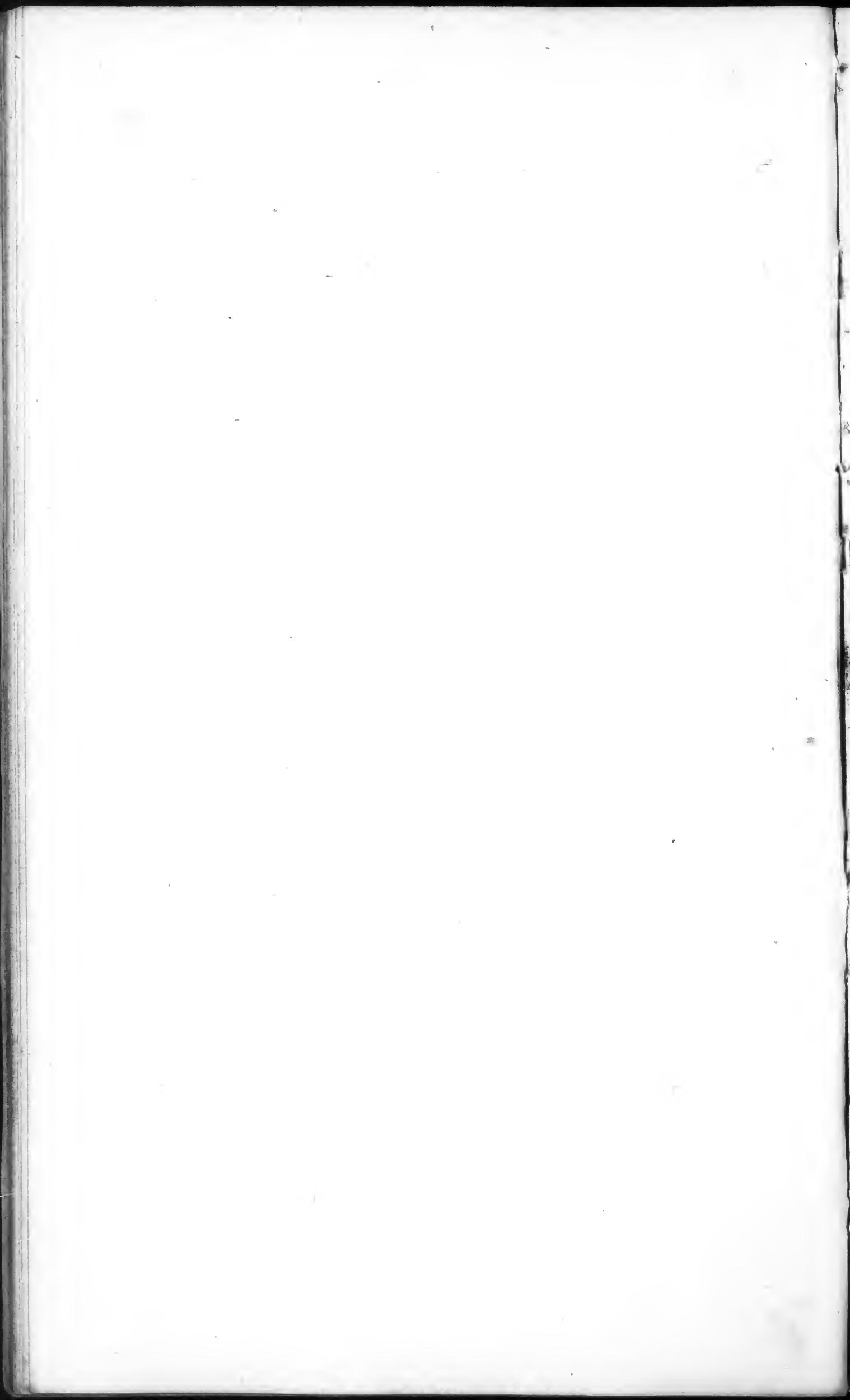
same time those words were applied to my soul with the greatest power, “*Peace I leave with thee; my peace I give unto thee; not as the world giveth, give I unto thee.*”—Joh. xiv. 27. Now also the Lord sent the Spirit of adoption into my heart crying Abba Father; the Spirit himself bore witness with my spirit, that I was a child of God; I rejoiced with joy unspeakable and full of glory.—The sense of this Divine manifestation the enemy could never tear away from me; in all my violent temptations afterwards; even when I was almost driven to despair, this would come and come again to my mind, **GOD CANNOT CHANGE.**”

“Now, all my former companions forsook me, and said they could not bear my melancholy conversation, as they called it; yea, my own sister told me, ‘Once she delighted to see me in company, but now she hated to see me there, I looked so much like a fool.’ Blessed be my God, this was my glory, to be counted a fool for my dear Lord’s sake! The world indeed seemed under my feet, and my conversation was truly in heaven; so that I have been in a room full of company, all conversing, and some speaking to me, yet I have not known one word they said, my thoughts were so taken up with God.”

“About this time Mr. Murray returned from his voyage. My sister told him, I was gone melancholy through hearing Mr. Wesley, at which he

smiled; but when he found that I would not be a party in such pleasures as I used to delight in, he said I was gone mad, and swore that Mr. *Wesley* had destroyed all his happiness in this world. He would not let me go to any preaching, nor suffer any Methodist to come near me. This was my cross indeed! At length, finding that he could by no means prevail with me to accompany him to scenes of pleasure and vain delight, he said with a deep sigh, ‘I see no way to recover you, but putting you into a madhouse;’ which my sister encouraged him to do. I answered him, ‘I am in my perfect senses, but you may do with my body as God pleaseth to suffer you; I will however serve the Lord in his own way.’ He said, ‘You may go to church, and serve God as much as you please.’ To this I said but little, thinking it then most prudent; but was determined to know nothing save Jesus Christ and him crucified. He said again, ‘You shall forsake these Methodists, or I will put you into a madhouse.’ I answered, ‘I believe them to be the people of God, therefore if I deny them, I should deny the Lord that bought me with his blood; than which I would rather die: and put me into whatever place you please, the Lord will go with me.’ On this he rose up, and said, ‘I will go to Mrs. —, and bespeak a place for you.’—I had now no other resource, but to pour out my sorrows before God, and to intreat him that he would either prevent





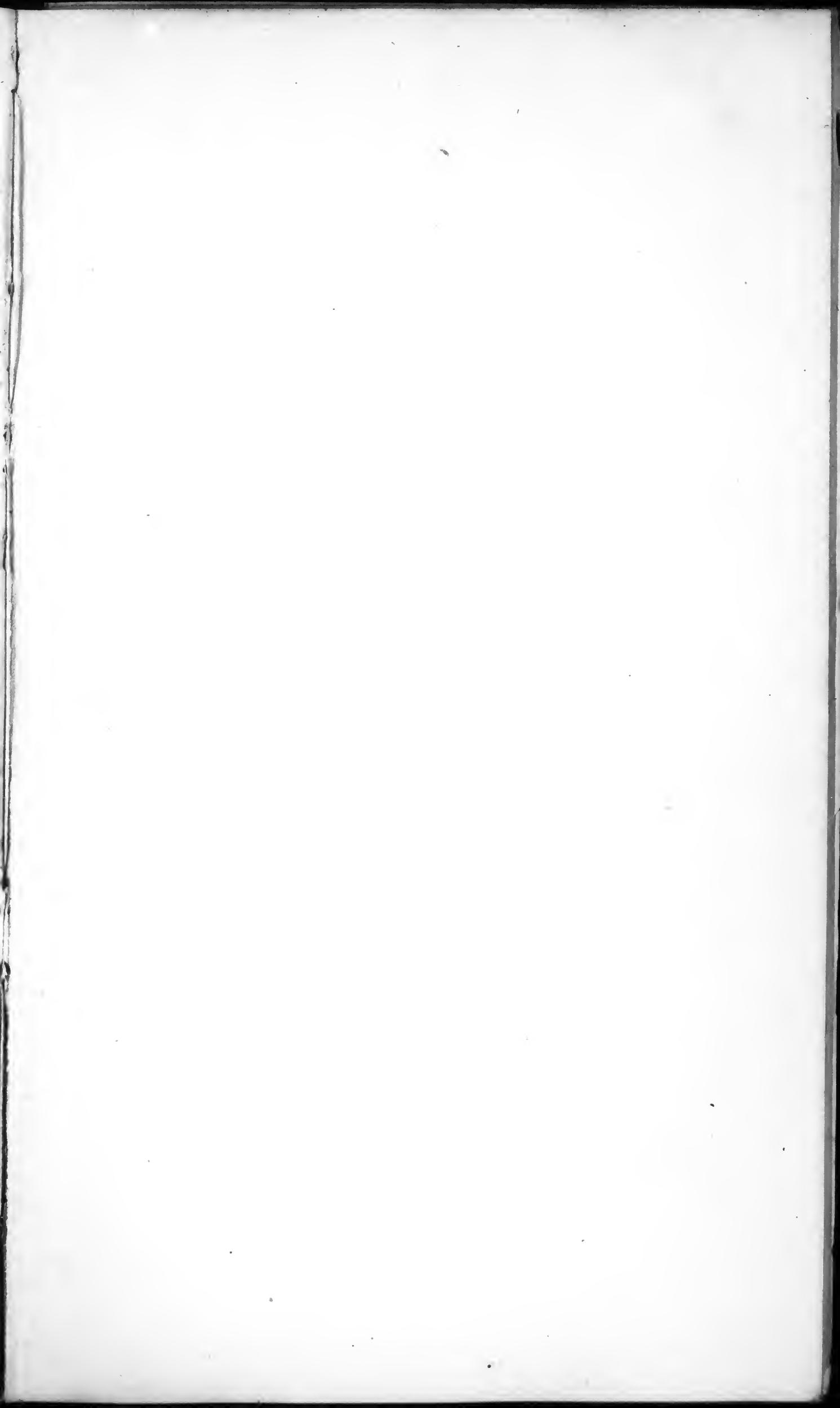
this, or over-rule it for his glory. Mr. M. had not been gone long, (for I was yet wrestling with God) before he came up stairs and said, ‘I cannot do it.’—In a little time after this, I was taken dangerously ill, which greatly distressed him; and when he thought I should die, he said, ‘My dear, will you have any body sent for? you shall have whom you please;’ but when any of the Methodists came, he went out. It pleased God, however, to restore me in a little time, and my husband gave me leave to go to the preachings; which was like health to my bones. Soon afterwards he went another voyage, so that I had an opportunity of enjoying religious means without any interruption; and indeed my soul was filled with the love of God, I was carried above all sublunary cares, and enjoyed what the world could neither give nor take away.”

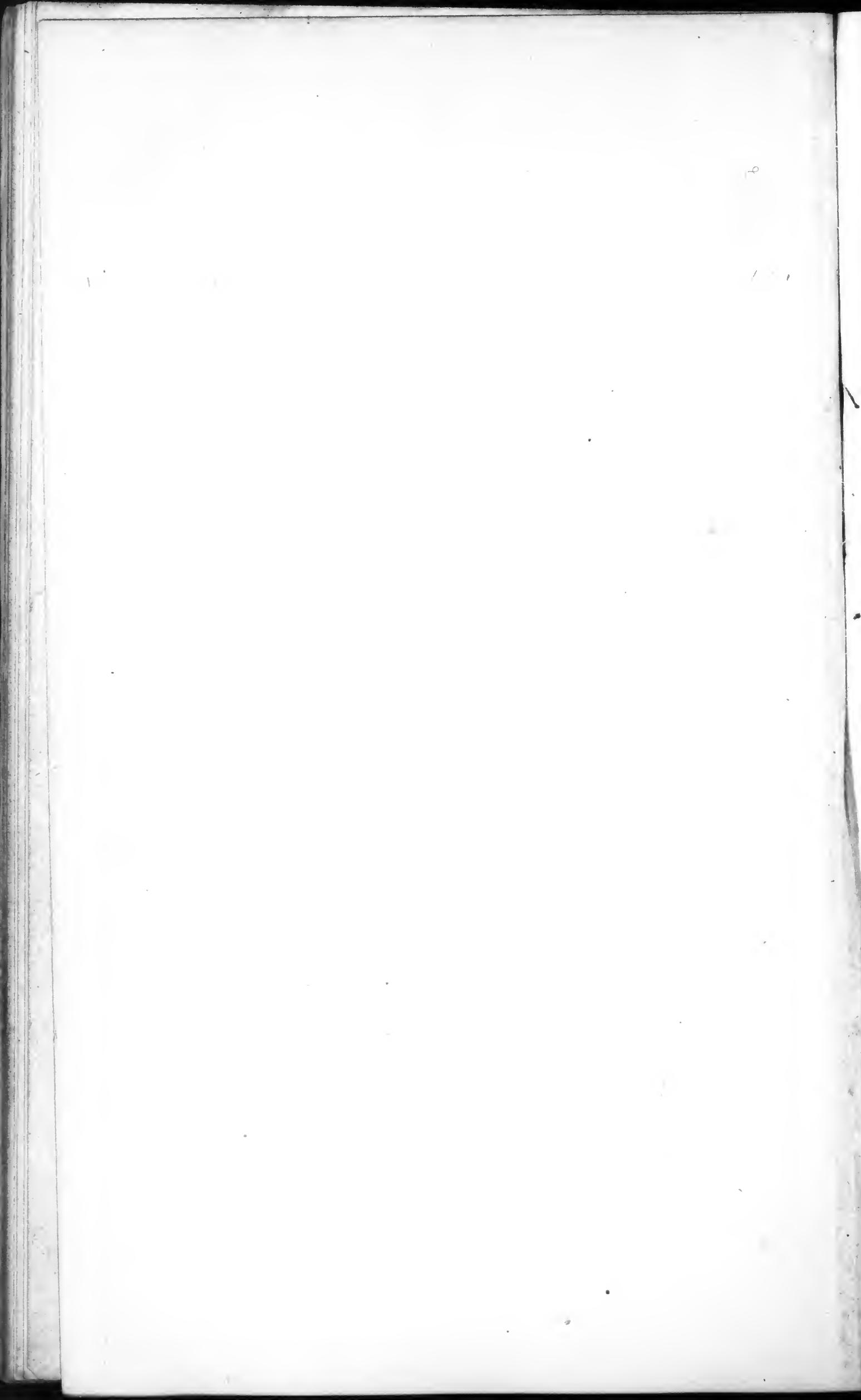
“A little after this, Mr. *Wesley* made me a *Leader of a Band*; I was afraid of undertaking it, yet durst not refuse, lest I should offend God. I was also appointed to be one of the *Visitors of the Sick*, which was my pleasant work. And thus was I carried on, all the while Mr. M. was gone, till I heard of his death at sea, which was about fourteen months after he left me. All the time I scarcely knew whether I was in heaven or on earth, my soul was so filled with the comforts of the Holy Ghost! Whenever I drew near to God in secret prayer, (I would with profound humility speak it,) .

he was graciously pleased to commune with me, as it were face to face.—But, this was only to prepare me for my great trial! for I *would mourn*, and refused to be comforted, on account of my loss, and did thereby grieve the Spirit of God; nor can I say, that I ever afterwards enjoyed so happy a frame.”

“ Some time before this Mr. *Wesley* went down to *Newcastle-upon-Tyne*, where my mother was then living. I had wrote her word of my husband’s death, and she desired me to come down as soon as I could. Accordingly, I took my only surviving child, and went aboard a vessel in the *Thames*, which set sail the same evening, and in two days we got in sight of our port; but, before we got in, a tempestuous wind arose, which drove us quite out of our course. We were driven about for three days. The first place the seamen espied, they took to be a castle, and began to rejoice, thinking it was *Tinmouth-Castle*; but when the captain and mate had more closely examined, they found we were in *Skate-Road*, on the coast of *Scotland*. Now therefore the poor mariner’s joy was turned into fear; we were in danger of rocks and shoals; but my God was with me and saved me from fear.

When I heard the captain and mate saying one to the other, ‘ We are bound to see it out,’ I was kept calm, though the ship was tossed mountain-high. I saw the wonders of the deep, and blessed be my God, he calmed the raging of the sea, and brought us in safety to our port at last.”



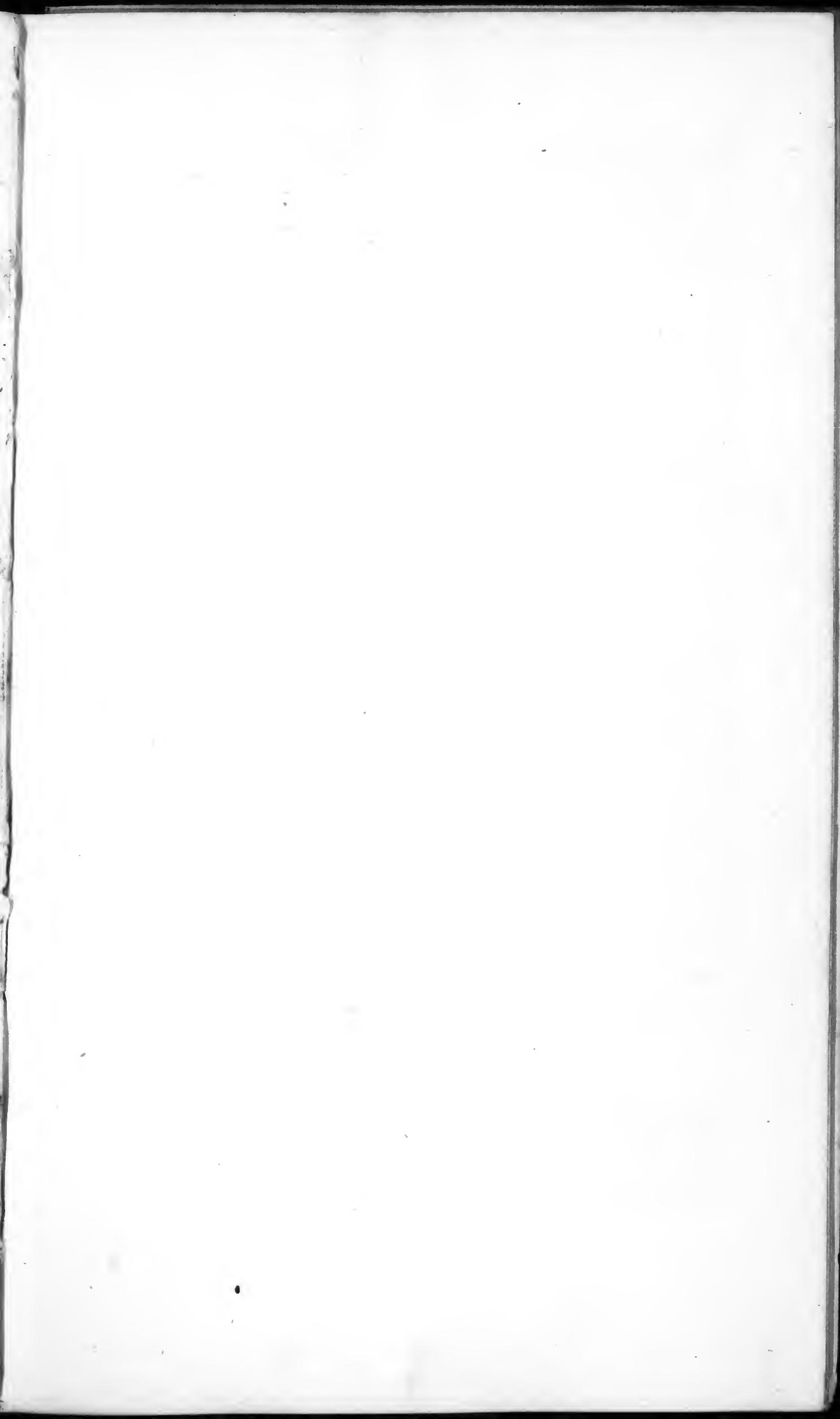


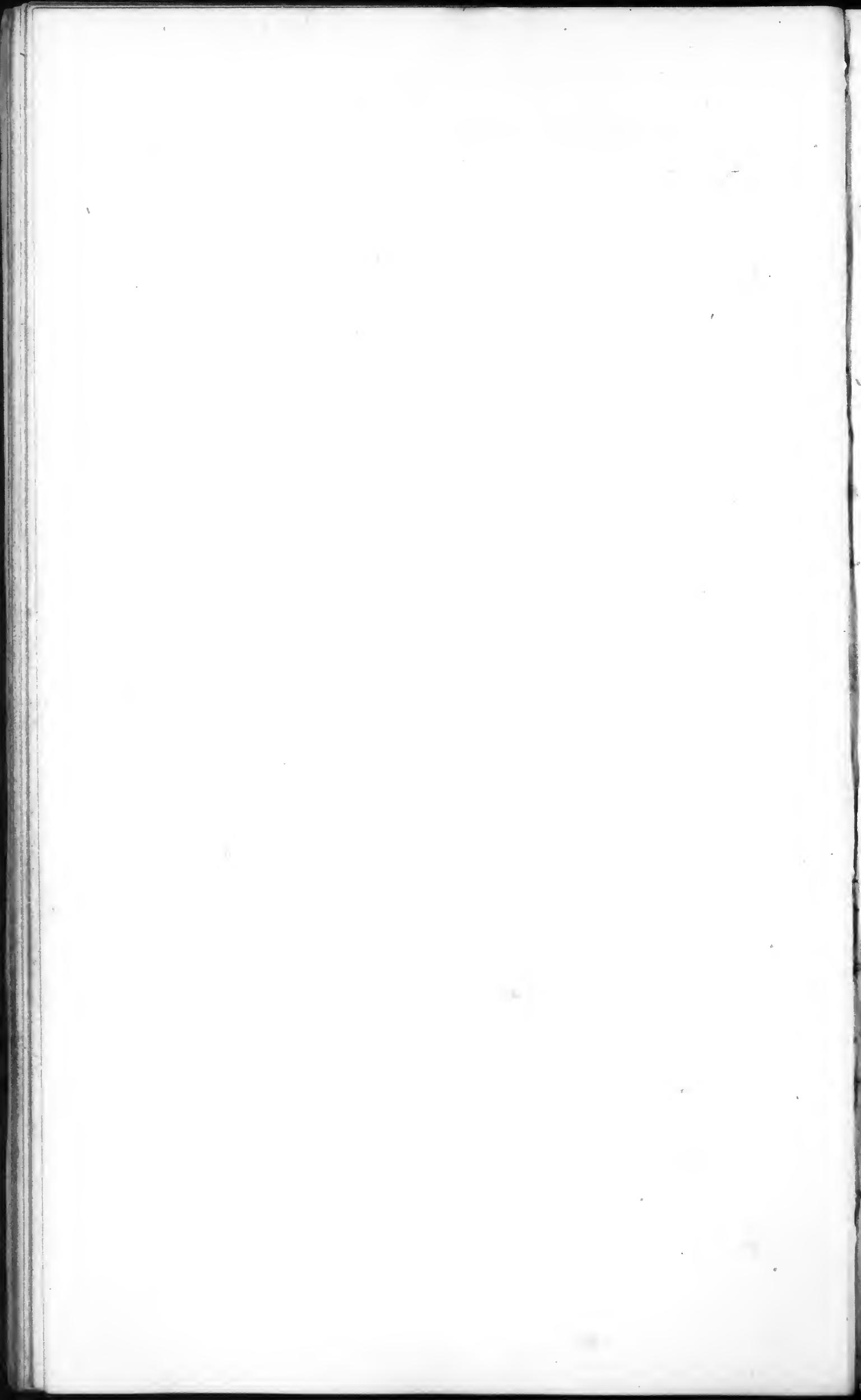
"On my arrival at *Newcastle*, I found that Mr. *Wesley* had been preaching both in the town and in the fields, and that the people flocked to hear the gospel; which caused my spirits to revive, when I saw how the arm of the Lord was stretched out to save sinners in my native country. The word was attended with divine power, and souls were daily added to the church.—Mr. *John Wesley* being called up to *London*, his brother *Charles* came in his room, and the work of God increased wonderfully. A society was formed, consisting of several *hundreds*; so that there was ample work for those, who knew any thing of the work of grace on their own hearts.—Soon afterwards Mr. *John* returned and laid a plan for a Preaching-House in the town, having purchased a plot of ground for that purpose.* The Society at *Newcastle* was divided into Classes with their respective Leaders, like those in *London*. Mr. *Wesley* fixed me in that part of the work which he thought proper; and when the House was finished, I was appointed to be the *House-keeper*. Soon also, the people were again divided into *Bands*, or small select Societies; women by themselves, and the men in like manner. I had full a hundred in *Classes*, whom I met in two separate meetings; and a *Band* for each day of the week. I likewise visited the Sick and *Backsliders*, which was my pleasant meat. The work of God

* This was in the month of December, 1742. See Mr. *Wesley's Journal*, vol. I.

was my delight, and when I was not employed in it, I seemed out of my element. We had also several Societies in the country, which I regularly visited; meeting the women in the day time, and in the evening the whole society. And oh, what pourings out of the Spirit have I seen at those times! it warms my heart now while I relate it. I doubt not but I shall meet some of those precious Souls, amongst whom I was so often refreshed in prayer, to sing the high praises of God and the Lamb for ever!"

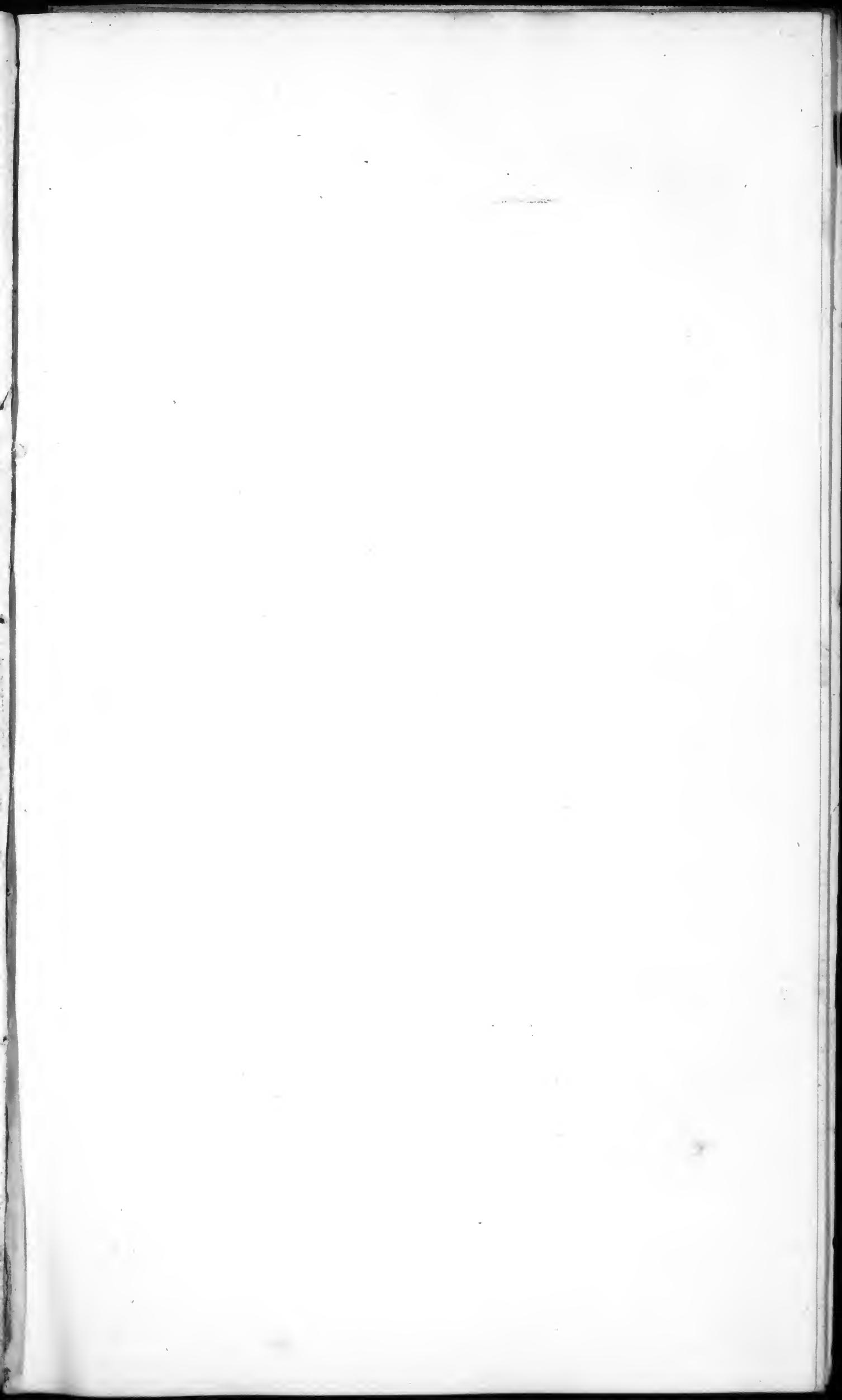
From the preceding account it will appear, how striking were the circumstances of her conversion; how deeply her mind was wrought upon by convictions of sin; how comfortably she was brought acquainted with the hope of the Gospel; and how eminently she was favoured with an assurance of her interest in the Love of God! The change of mind she experienced, was that of a sudden transition from darkness to light, so clear and strong, as carried with it indubitable evidence that it was the work of God upon her heart. The effect of it was an immediate consecration of all her powers to the service of Christ; and, for a considerable season, she seems to have enjoyed a most intimate, and uninterrupted communion with God.—This is not the ordinary standard of Christian experience; neither is it uncommon for those, who at one time have been so highly indulged with sensible comforts, at other seasons to pass through peculiar

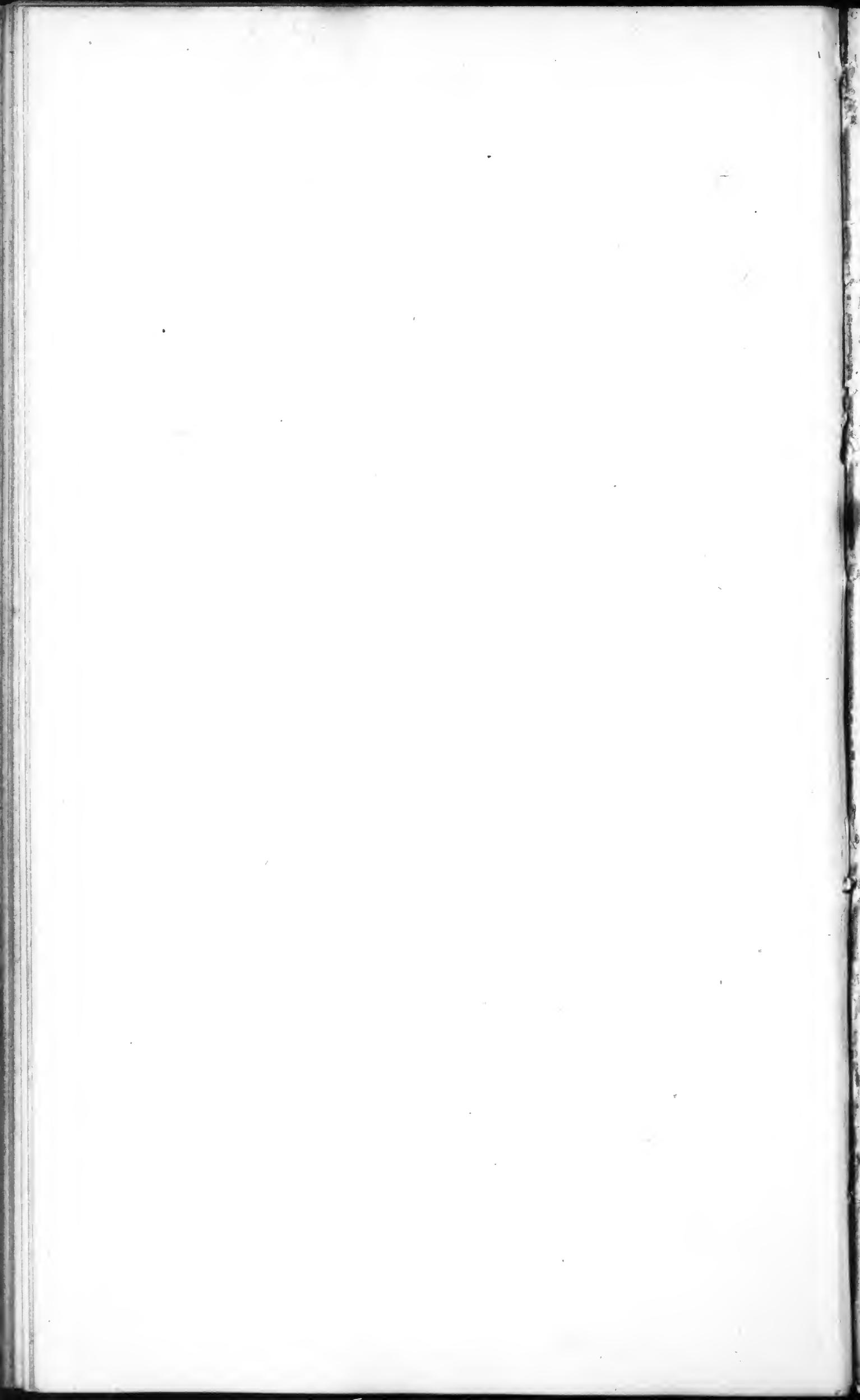




scenes of temptation and spiritual exercise; especially if designed for distinguished usefulness in the church. This was the case with the subject of these memoirs. Her conflicts with Satan, and the distress of soul she sometimes suffered, through the pressure of temptations peculiarly discouraging, considerably surpassed what many eminent Christians are acquainted with. The grand adversary of souls sifted her by every stratagem, and sometimes, with all the fury of a roaring lion, threatened to devour her.—What she alludes to in the preceding account, as her *Great Trial*, was such a scene of deep spiritual conflict, almost bordering on *despair*; into which she was brought by indulging high-wrought speculative Inquiries, and following a train of sceptical Suggestions, till her mind was enveloped in darkness, and deprived of all sensible comfort. This she considered, in more advanced life, as permitted of God, to correct the bad effect of those undue Caresses she met with amongst the Societies; to humble her, and to make her know what was in her heart; as well as to teach her how to sympathize with, and comfort the souls of the distressed; for which, by painful experience, she was eminently qualified.—“I was got, she says, to such a pass, that no preaching did me any good; so wise, that I thought I knew all before the preacher spoke. Oh, this was a dreadful state! I tremble to think of it, even at this distance of *forty* years! I began to reason about

many things, till I lost my sensible comfort, and was soon assaulted by temptations of various kinds. The Holy Spirit was grieved, and I walked under great heaviness. My state of mind daily grew worse and worse, that I was even filled with HORRIBLE THOUGHTS, and ready to disbelieve every thing in the Scriptures ; yea, had not the Lord secretly upheld me, I had been swallowed up even of ATHEISM itself. For, as I was one day walking in a field behind the town-walls, it came to me like lightning, ‘ There is no GOD.’ I was as if thunderstruck ; when, lifting up my eyes to heaven, I cried out, ‘ Satan, thou art a liar ; I know there is a GOD ; I have felt his power, I have tasted of his love.’ And again I said, ‘ Who made these heavens, and stretched them out like a curtain ? or who laid the foundations of the earth ? ’ Immediately it came to me, ‘ All by *Nature.*’ I went into one of the towers in the town-wall to have prayed, but the heavens seemed as brass ; I came out, and having to pass over a high stone stile with a flight of steps, was tempted to throw myself down from the top. How I got off I hardly know, but in a moment I was as if covered with a black vail ; on which I cried out, ‘ If there be a GOD, save me ! ’ then the Lord appeared for my deliverance, and Satan fled. By degrees I was reduced almost to a skeleton, through the weight of grief that oppressed my soul ; yet, blessed be God, he did not leave me utterly to despair, but something of a se-



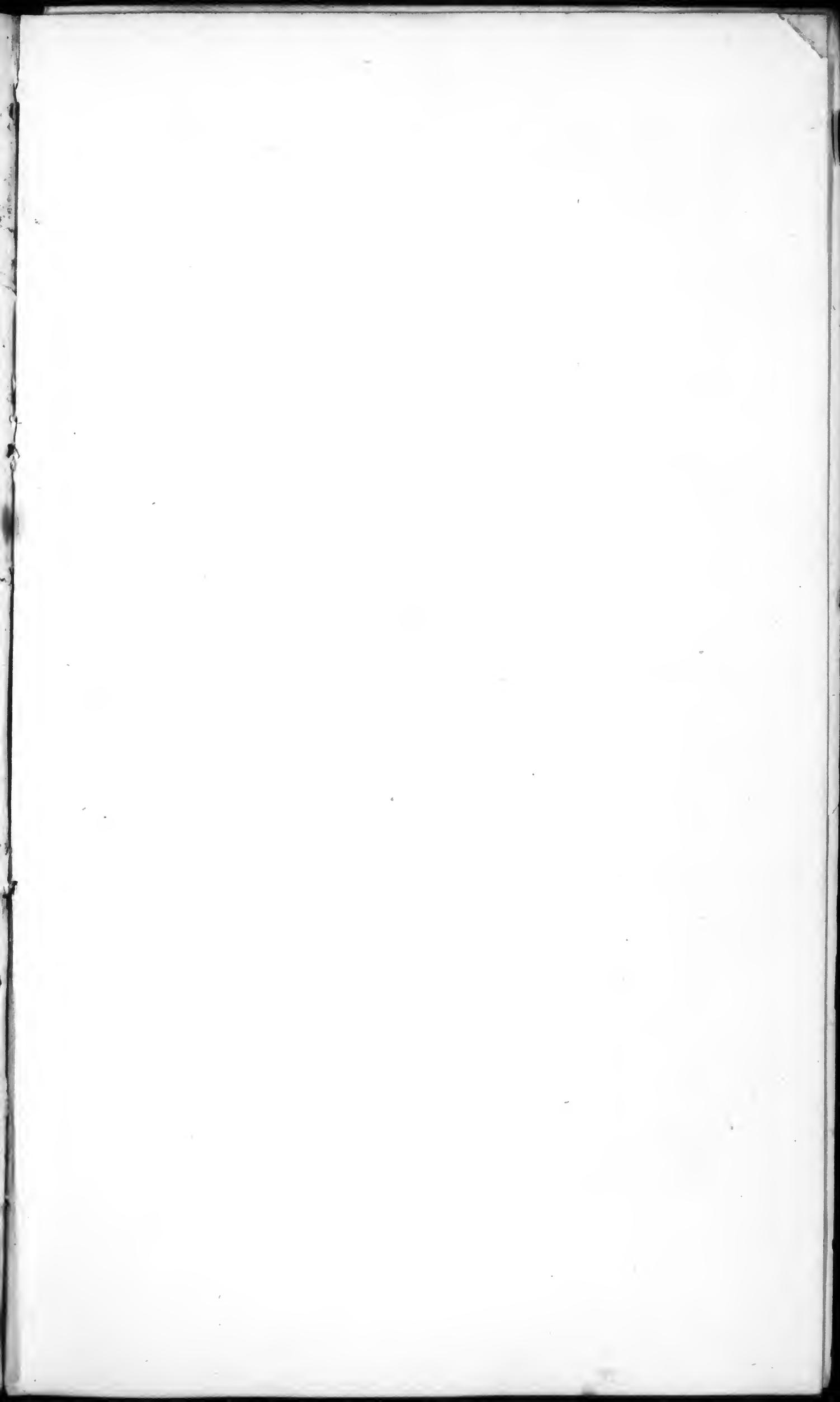


cret hope bore me up, that in due time he would deliver. And thus was I carried on for *two years*, no one knowing any thing of my state but God and Mr. *Wesleys*. I was enabled to be cheerful in company, lest I should cause the hands of any of God's children to hang down; but it was truly hard work, to encourage others in the very things, wherein I myself was so much discouraged!—Soon afterwards I was taken very ill, and was confined to my bed some time; during which I was filled with dreadful suggestions from the enemy, that 'I should never be saved,' and therefore might as well 'give over prayer.' I said within myself, 'If I never go to heaven, I never will serve thee, Satan; but will do all I can for God and souls.' About four o'clock I turned myself over in bed, and said 'I shall sleep now;' and immediately fell asleep, and slept till I was waked by the singing in the preaching-room. One of our preachers then came to my bed-side, and said 'Sister *Murray*, you are given back to the church's prayers; you must not die but live;' and from that hour I recovered. Glory be to God in the highest!"

Few characters were more esteemed, throughout all Mr. *Wesley's* connection, than the subject of these memoirs, and in real usefulness she equalled most of his preachers. He was wont to call her his right-hand, and there is good reason to believe, that he intended to have married her; but she was

destined by Providence to move in another sphere, And, as there was somewhat peculiar in the commencement of her connection with my father, which also exhibits a leading trait in her character, viz. of *Christian Integrity* and *Faithfulness*, I shall relate the circumstances in her own words.

"April 26, 1745-6 Mr. John Wesley came to Newcastle; and the day after his arrival, as we were sitting at dinner, a gentleman in black came up to the door. Mr. Wesley said, 'It is Mr. Bennet; I left him yesterday at Ferryhill.' The name struck me, that I was amazed at myself, nor could I shake it off for some time.—This was a time of sickness in our house; all the preachers were, or had been, ill of a fever. After some time Mr. Wesley left us, and in a few days Mr. Bennet was seized with the fever, and the physician declared him *dangerous*. I desired some of the preachers to acquaint him of his danger, but they refused; I said, 'Then I must, for I will deliver my soul.' I went into his room, and asked him how he found himself? He said, he was very ill. I told him, 'I would not deceive him, for I believed him to be a dying man.' He said, 'Call in the family.' They came, and he talked with us all, and exhorted us with many words. I found my heart drawn out to prayer with and for him. The Lord heard and graciously answered. Mr. B. cried out 'All my pain is gone, I am well;' and from that hour he recovered, after having lain sick at our house



by Mr. Reu^D
curator

twenty-six weeks.—Long after which he said, “God gave **ME** to him for a *wife* in that prayer, when he lay sick on his bed at *Newcastle*, and cried out as above.”

This connection, however, did not take place for some years, though a correspondence was maintained between them. And, in the mean time, her soul being set at liberty, and her health becoming established, she travelled, by Mr. *Wesley's* direction, through several of the northern counties, to meet and regulate the female societies; afterwards she went over into *Ireland* for the same purpose, where she continued three or four months; and at her return thence, travelled from *Bristol*, through the southern and eastern counties, back to *Newcastle*; where, on the 3d Day of *October*, 1749, she was married, in the parish church of St. *Andrew's*, to my father the Rev. *John Bennet*, of *Chinley*, near *Chapel-en-le-frith*, *Derbyshire*, in the presence of the Rev. *George Whitefield* and the Rev. *Charles Wesley*.

At this time, my father was a preacher in Mr. *Wesley's* connection, and superintended a very extensive circuit, through part of *Yorkshire*, *Lancashire*, *Cheshire*, and *Derbyshire*; in which (as appears from a letter of his to Mr. *Wesley*, dated *March 6, 1750*) he rode nearly 200 miles every fortnight.* In this circuit he continued to labour

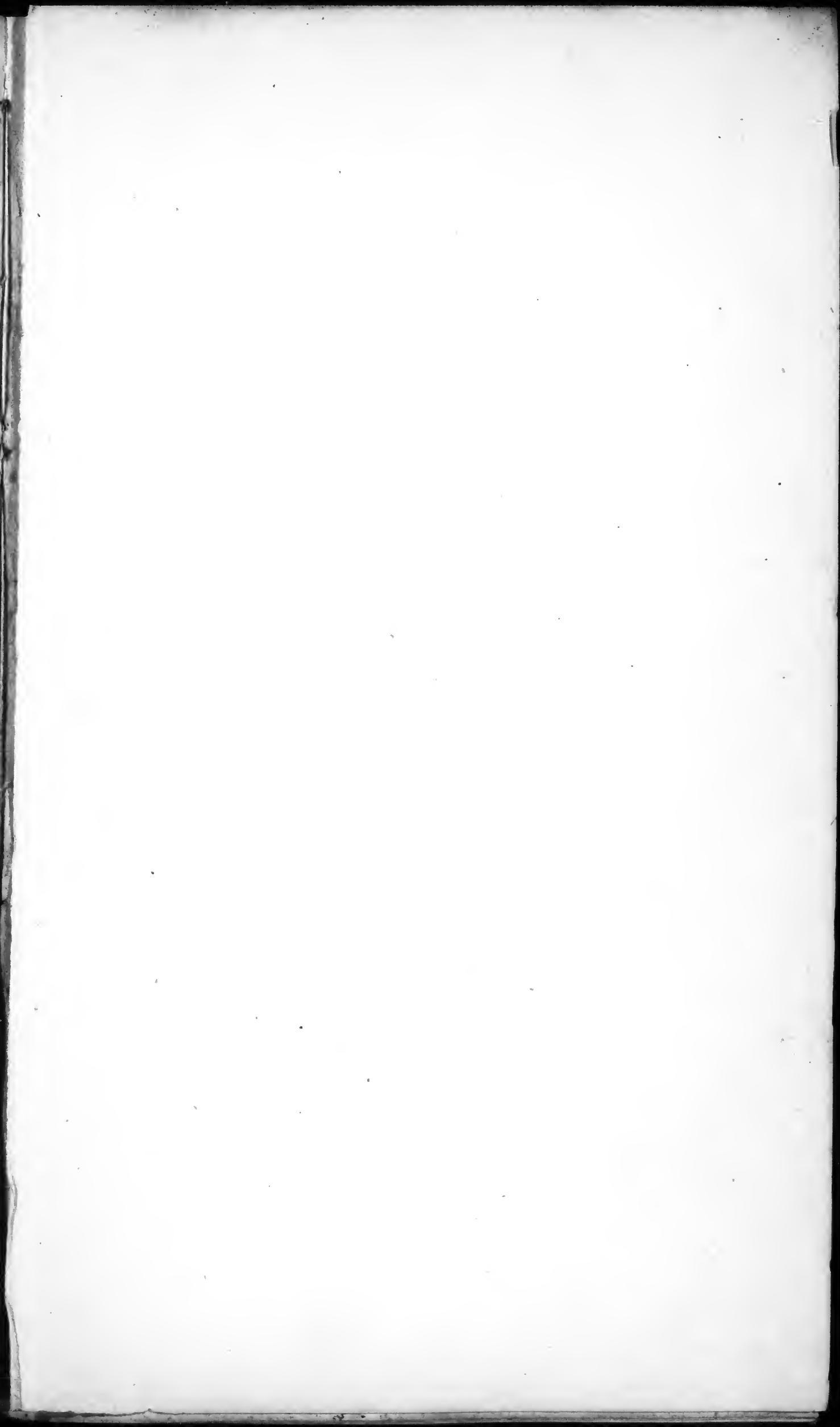
* From my father's MS. Journal it appears, that he was intended by his parents for one of the learned Professions, and with that view

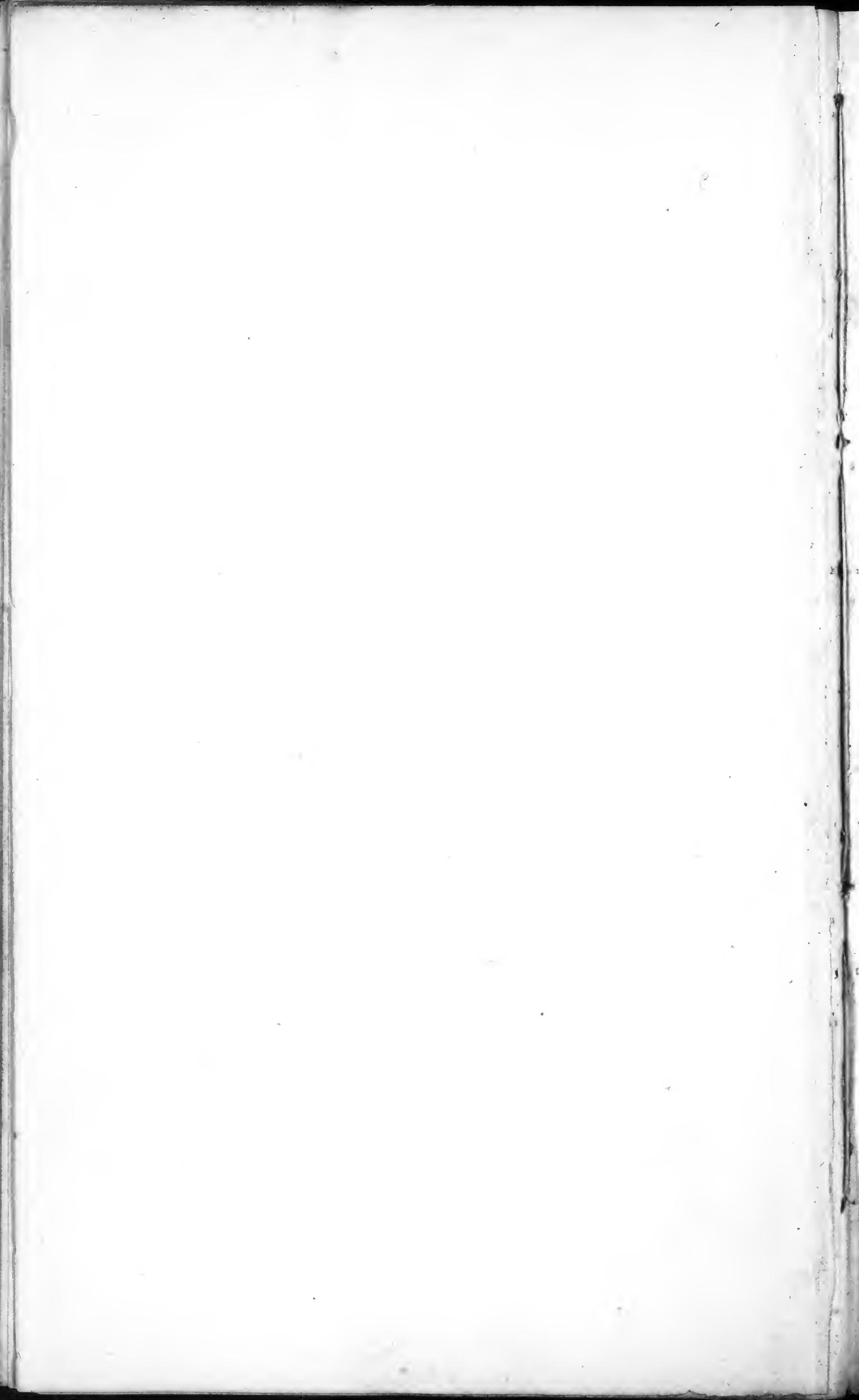
with unwearied diligence for some years afterwards, his wife (now Mrs. *Grace Bennet*) generally accompanying him, so long as domestic convenience would admit; whose prayers and counsels, amongst the women of the several societies, were eminently useful.—Some diversities of religious opinion, however, springing up between him and Mr. *Wesley*, particularly, respecting the righteousness of Christ

received a good classical education. Being of a serious disposition and fond of books, he made choice of *Divinity*, and about the age of *Seventeen* was placed under the care of Dr. *Latham*, of *Findern* near *Derby*, with a view to have gone through a course of academical studies. Here, however, he remained but a little while; and having relinquished all thoughts of the ministry, engaged himself as a justice's clerk to *R. Bagshaw*, Esq; in which situation he continued till he was *twenty-two* years of age. Afterwards he embarked in a line of commercial business, which was both a mortification and grief to his parents.

In the year 1739, when he was about *25* years old, being at *Sheffield*, he was invited to go and hear one *DAVID TAYLOR*, an itinerant preacher out of *Leicestershire*; whose ministry God was pleased to bless for the good of his soul, though he went more with a view to ridicule the speaker, than to receive any benefit by his word. Struck with his earnestness and zeal, he invited Mr. *Taylor* into that part of *Derbyshire* called the *High Peak*, and travelled with him from place to place, though he thereby incurred the displeasure of his parents. Soon afterwards he became acquainted with Mr. *Benjamin Ingham*, of *Abberford* in *Yorkshire*, whom he likewise introduced into *Derbyshire*, and accompanied him so long as he continued preaching in these parts.

Thus he was the first instrument of bringing, what were afterwards called, the *Methodists* into this and the adjoining counties; and when it pleased God to reveal his Son in him, and to visit him with a sense





being imputed to believers, as the only ground of their justification before God; (which my father openly avowed) together with some other occasions of uneasiness, which need not here be repeated; **THEY PUBLICKLY SEPARATED,** at *Bolton, in Lancashire, April 3d, 1752.*

This was a heavy affliction to my good mother, who had the highest veneration for the character of Mr. *Wesley*, whom she always honored as her spiritual father; though she thought his conduct, on that occasion, highly reprehensible. She was then also a warm stickler for the doctrines of Universal Redemption, Free-Will, &c. which were topics of warm controversy, at that time, between Mr. *Wesley* and Mr. *Whitefield*, my father siding with the latter. But, in a little while, she saw reason to embrace what is commonly called the *Calvinistic* view of gospel doctrines, in which she acquired a very clear and distinguishing judgment, and was more and more established to the last; though she never afterwards was fond of re-

of his pardoning love, he presently relinquished all secular pursuits, and devoted himself indefatigably to the work of exhorting and beseeching sinners to be reconciled to God.

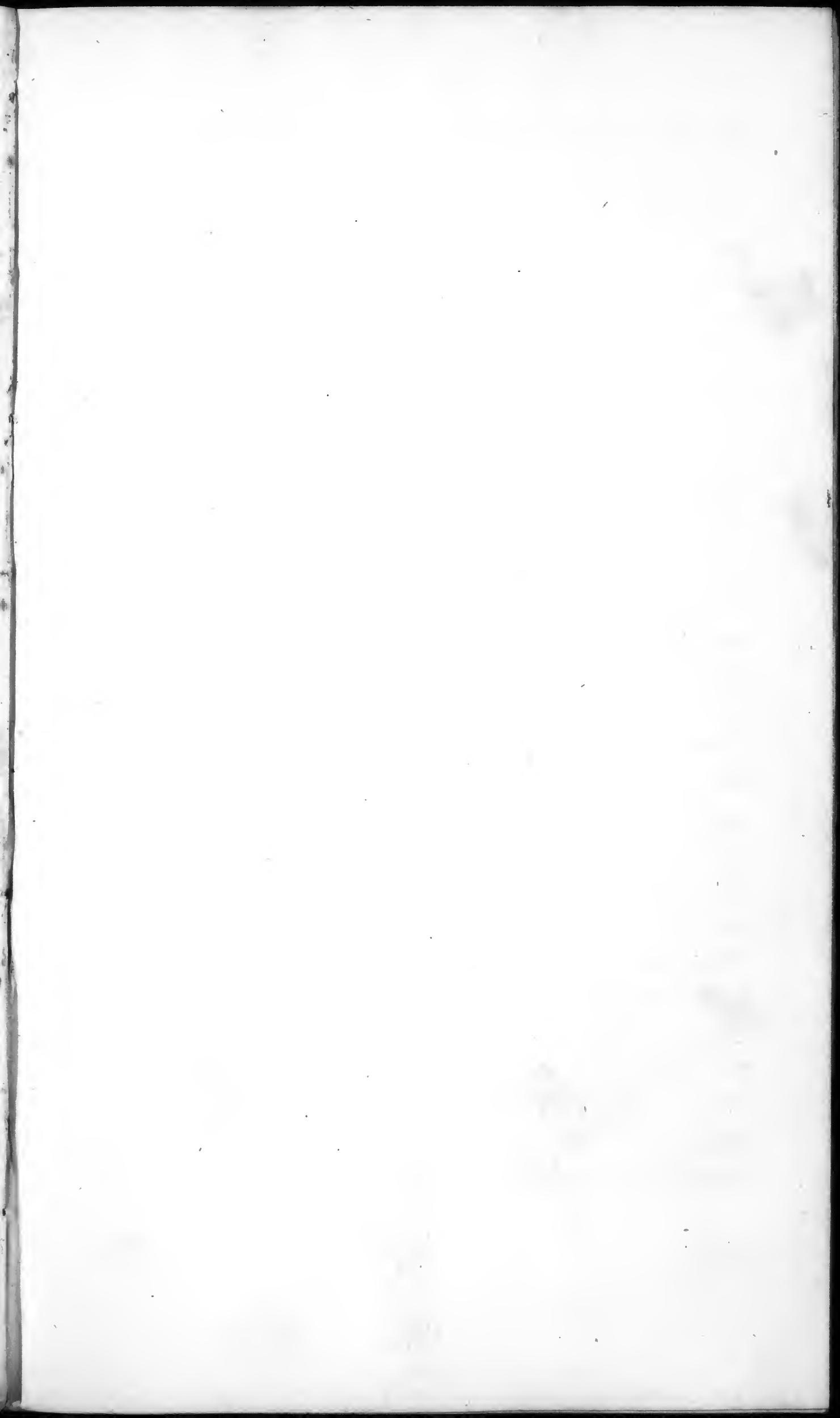
June 2d, 1742; he first heard Mr. *John Wesley*, at *Dewsbury near Wakefield*; and the next day was introduced into his company by *John Nelson*, at *Murfield*, in that neighbourhood.

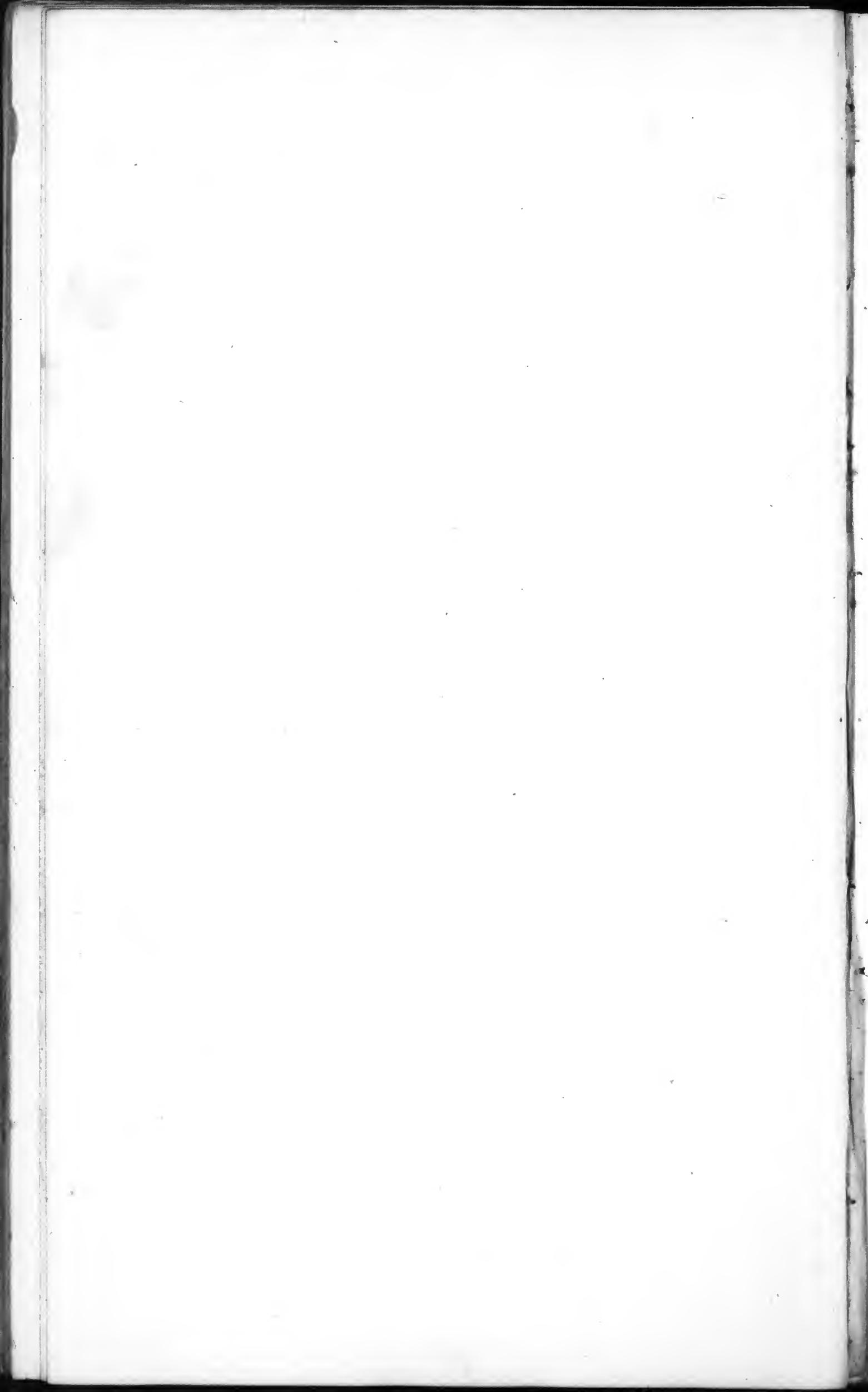
April 15th, 1743. Meeting Mr. *John Wesley* near *Chesterfield*, he was invited by him to *London, Bristol, or Newcastle-upon-Tyne*; and from that time entered into close connection with him, as a Preacher amongst the Methodists.

igious controversy, and advised all her Christian friends against it.

The cares of a growing family now occupied her time and attention, that she could but seldom accompany my father in his circuit round the societies. This therefore, among other considerations, induced him to think of connecting himself more closely with a particular congregation, as their stated Minister; that he might more comfortably attend to his family as well as his flock.—Accordingly, in 1754, a meeting-house being erected for him at *Warbutton* in *Cheshire*, the society assembling there was regularly organized, on the plan of an independent church; and he by prayer and fasting was solemnly set apart to the pastoral office amongst them.—Here he continued his ministerial labours on the Lord's Day, (generally preaching four or five times a week besides, in places at some distance) till the year 1759; when he was seized with the jaundice, occasioned through his over exertions, and a great loss of blood from a wound that he accidentally received in his leg; and of this he died, on *Thursday* the 24th day of *May*, after laying ill *thirty-six weeks*.

The savour of his name is yet precious with many, in all parts where he preached; as a truly evangelical Minister, a faithful witness to the truth, an amiable example of its gracious influence, and one that was eminently owned of God, in turning many unto righteousness.—Through the course of



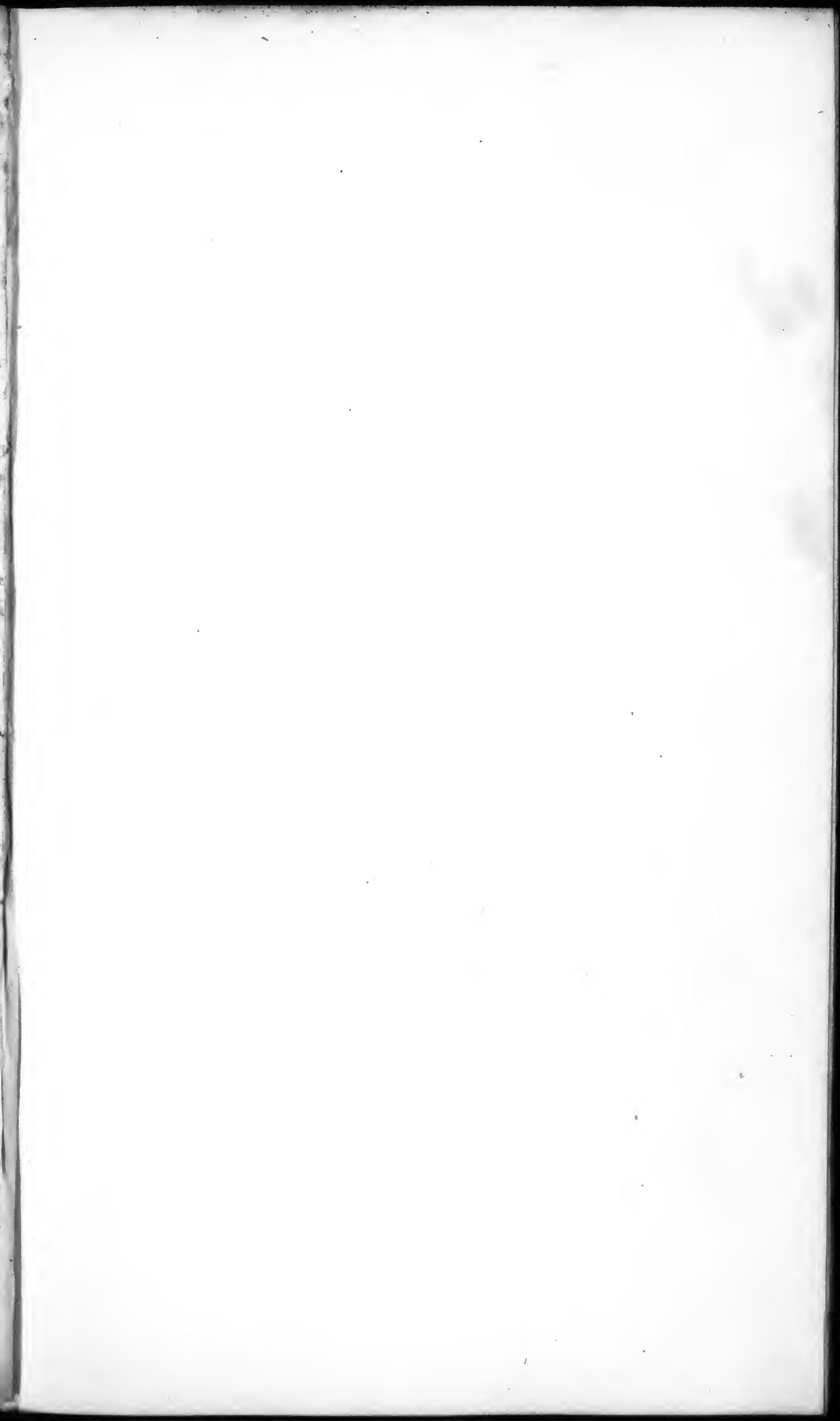


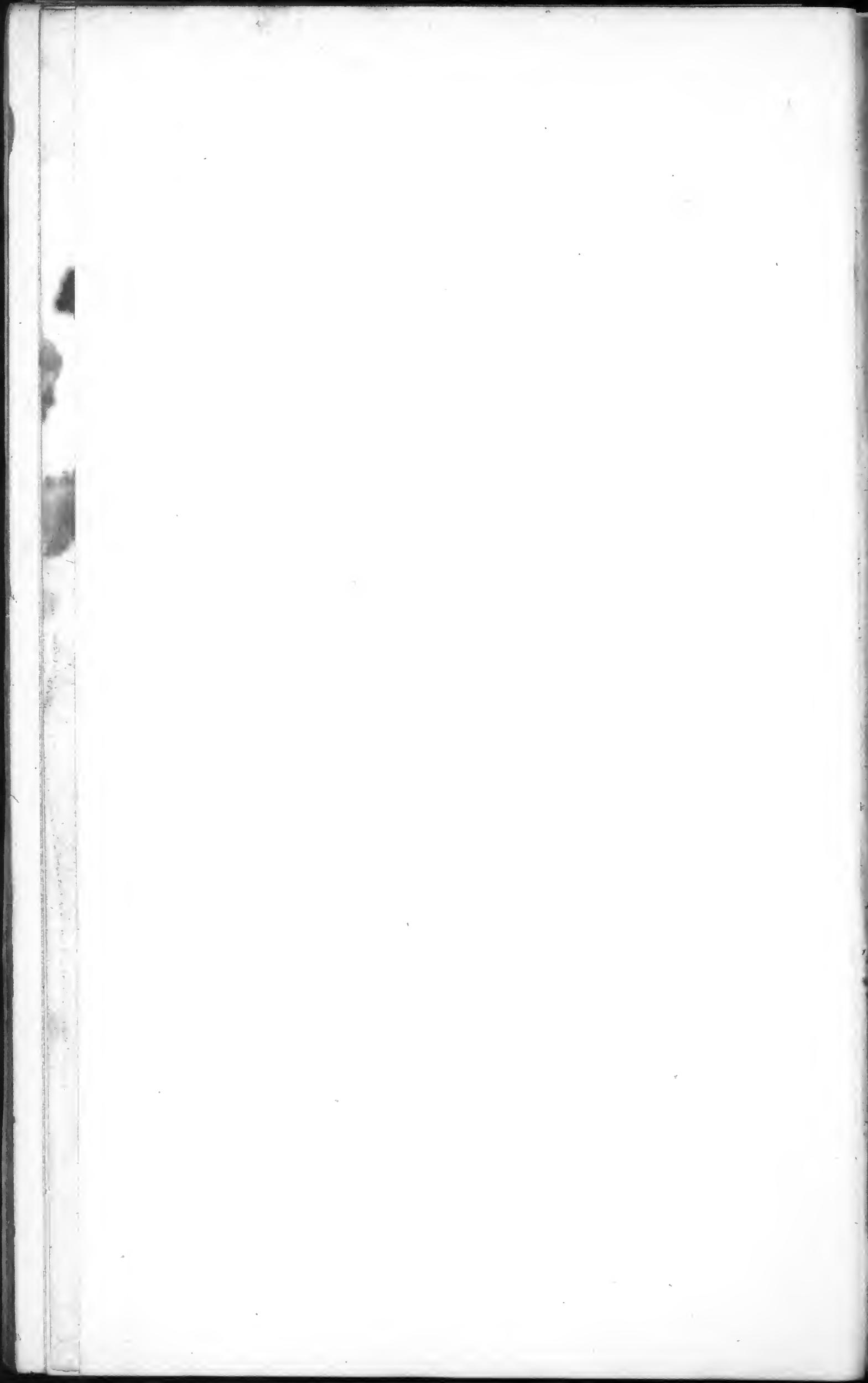
his Ministry, he richly experienced the consolations of the gospel, which supported him under the fatigue of labours more abundant; and in his dying moments he was favoured, beyond most, with the brightest and most ravishing prospects. The following is my late mother's account of this interesting scene.—“I have seen, says she, many saints take their leave of this world, but none like J. B.; may my last end be like his? As I was sitting on his bedside, he said ‘My dear, I am dying.’ This was about eleven o’clock, and he conversed with me till two. I said, ‘Thou art not afraid of dying?’ He answered cheerfully, ‘No, my dear, for I am assured, past a doubt or even a scruple, that I shall be with the Lord, to behold his glory; the blood of Jesus Christ hath cleansed me from all sin. I long to be dissolved. Come, Lord Jesus, loose me from the prison of this clay! Oh sweet, sweet dying! I could die ten thousand times; too sweet, my dear, too sweet!’ I said, ‘Canst thou now stake thy soul on the doctrine thou hast preached? He answered, ‘yes, ten thousand souls; it is the everlasting truth, stick by it.’ Then he prayed for his wife and children,—for his father, sister and her children—and for the church of Christ; after which he said, ‘I long to be gone; I am full—my cup runneth over; sing, sing, yea shout for joy!’ We then kissed each other, and he fell asleep in the arms of Jesus, with ‘Sing, sing, sing—!—He was lamented both by rich and poor.

He was an upright man, and without guile ; a lover of all good men. He feared no man, neither would he suffer sin upon his brother. We have sung the praises of God together in our journey below, and we shall sing them together to all eternity."—
Amen!

From this period she sustained the character of a "Widow indeed," left with five sons, the oldest not eight years of age ; far removed from all her own relations—and exercised with many trials, the circumstances of which were too much interwoven with family connections and affairs, to be publicly enumerated. But, it would be great injustice in *Me* not to say, that her character, as a Christian, was far from losing any thing of its lustre in those scenes of retirement through which she passed. I feel myself bound by every obligation, to bear a most honorable testimony to her conduct as a *Parent*; who not only cheerfully encountered many temporal difficulties in the education of her children, (on which I cannot help frequently reflecting with wonder) but also, by her example, her counsels, her prayers, her pleasing converse, and her prudent care, trained them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Reading the word of God, singing his praises, and calling on his name with her family, morning and evening, were daily practised in her house ; and these things were always done with such reverence, spirituality and fervour, as could not help





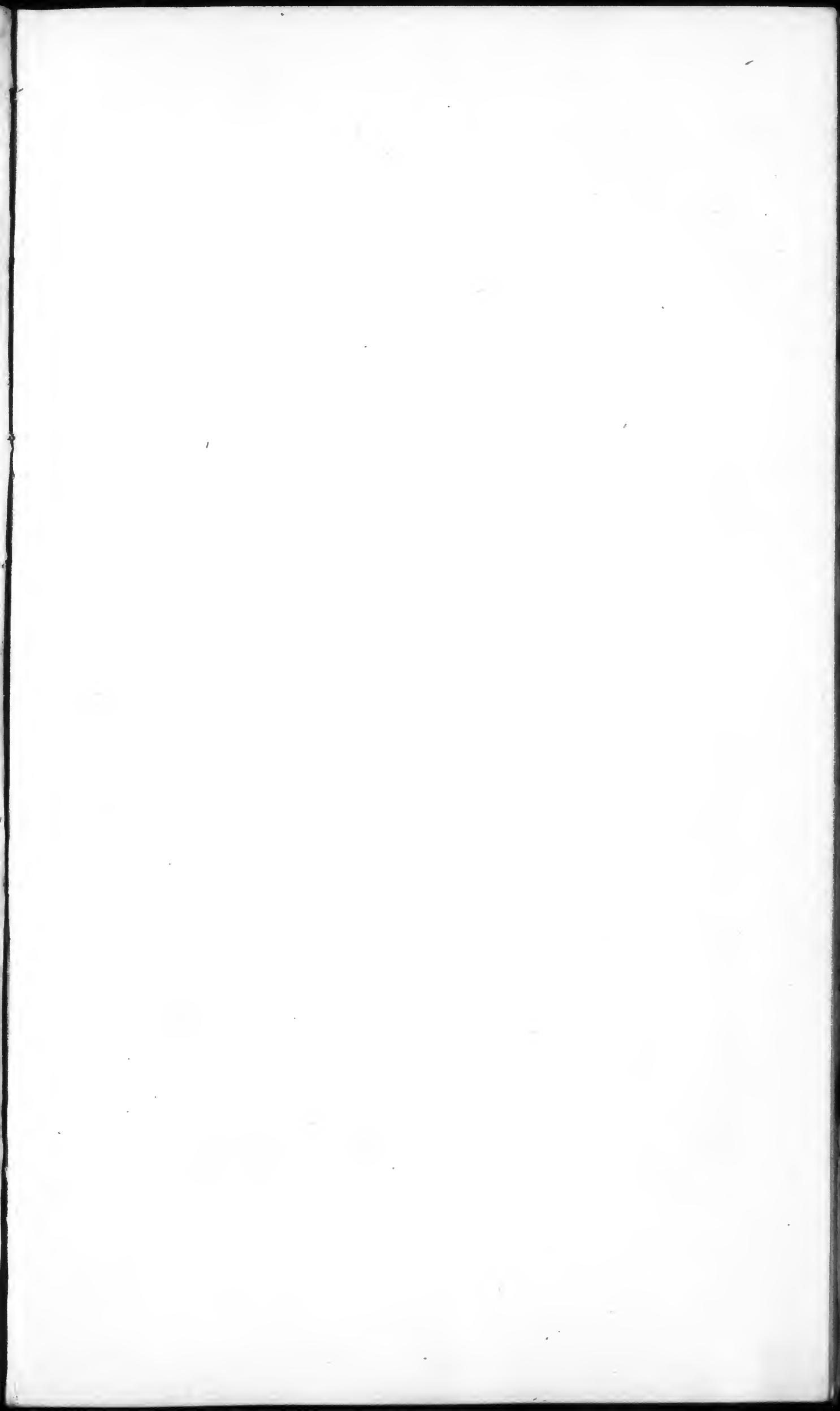
convincing every one that witnessed them, how deeply her heart was engaged in them. She was never tedious in the length of religious services, to render them a burden; and through all she introduced that agreeable variety, which made them entertaining as well as impressive. Few Christians possessed so eminently the spirit and gift of *Prayer*, which were cherished and improved by her abounding therein. In her chamber she daily spent a considerable time, in secret converse with God; the throne of grace was truly her *asylum*; whither she fled in all circumstances of trouble and perplexity; and there is good reason to believe, that her hours of private devotion were peculiarly sacred and interesting.

The cares of such a family, which she attended with most watchful solicitude, doing almost every thing for them with her own hands, would with some have engrossed every inch of time, and afforded no leisure for mental improvement; but, by her habit of early rising, and observing the strictest order in the arrangement of domestic concerns, she was enabled to cultivate her taste for reading to a very considerable extent; and this, not only among strictly devotional writings, but in general history, and the works of our best English poets. Such employment was to her a pleasing substitute for the *chit chat* of visiting, which often murders time, and leaves the mind empty and dissipated.

My father having been accustomed frequently to preach in his own house, to such of the neighbours as attended, after his death she endeavoured to provide for the continuance of their instruction, by inviting Gospel Ministers at a distance, to come and preach in rotation at her house; where they always received a kind and respectful entertainment. She had also weekly meetings for prayer and religious conversation, both of a general and more select nature, which in great measure she herself conducted, and which proved a great blessing to the souls of many.

IN VISITING THE SICK throughout her neighbourhood, her aptness and usefulness were eminently discovered. The inhabitants in general looked up to her on such occasions, with peculiar veneration and confidence, as a mother in Israel, who knew how to speak a word in season; and even such as in health were carnal and profane, would hearken to her advice, and request her prayers, in their time of illness, with great humility and earnestness. She was always ready to fall in with such calls of Providence, and several instances are within my own recollection, of persons, who by her instrumentality were truly awakened, and brought to the knowledge of the truth, and died full of peace and good hope towards God.

Having had the satisfaction to see those of her children, which were spared, introduced into life, and now becoming, through advance of years, less capable of attending religious means at any dis-



She kept a ^{Drawing}
dairy book

tance, she was prevailed upon, by great importunity, to quit her sequestered vale, and settle in the town of *Chapel-en-le-frith*; where, after some time, she again entered into society with the people called Methodists, in Mr. *Wesley's* connection; and had regular weekly class-meetings in her house, for prayer and experimental conversation; which she accounted a great privilege, and a special means of preserving and advancing the power of religion in the heart.

In the year 1792 begins her Diary, or daily memorandum of what passed in her own mind, which she continued till the year 1800; when her eyesight so failed, that she was utterly incapable of directing her pen.—From the nature of such a work it might reasonably be expected, that many things very similar would repeatedly occur; yet, to such as have any sense of genuine piety, and whose minds have been deeply exercised in the things of God, the whole could not fail to be striking and useful; especially, as manifesting such constant watchfulness over her own heart—such intimate communion with God by prayer—such lively dependance on his word—and a frame of spirit so prevailingly devotional. Many of these things, however, are so mixed with personal and family concerns, that they cannot be submitted to the inspection of the public. I shall therefore select some of those passages, which may be of general utility, and endeavour to present them in such orderly succession, as may

convey some correct idea of what was her habitual exercise and frame of mind unto the last; the perusal of which, I pray God may be rendered, by his blessing, instructive and refreshing to the souls of many!

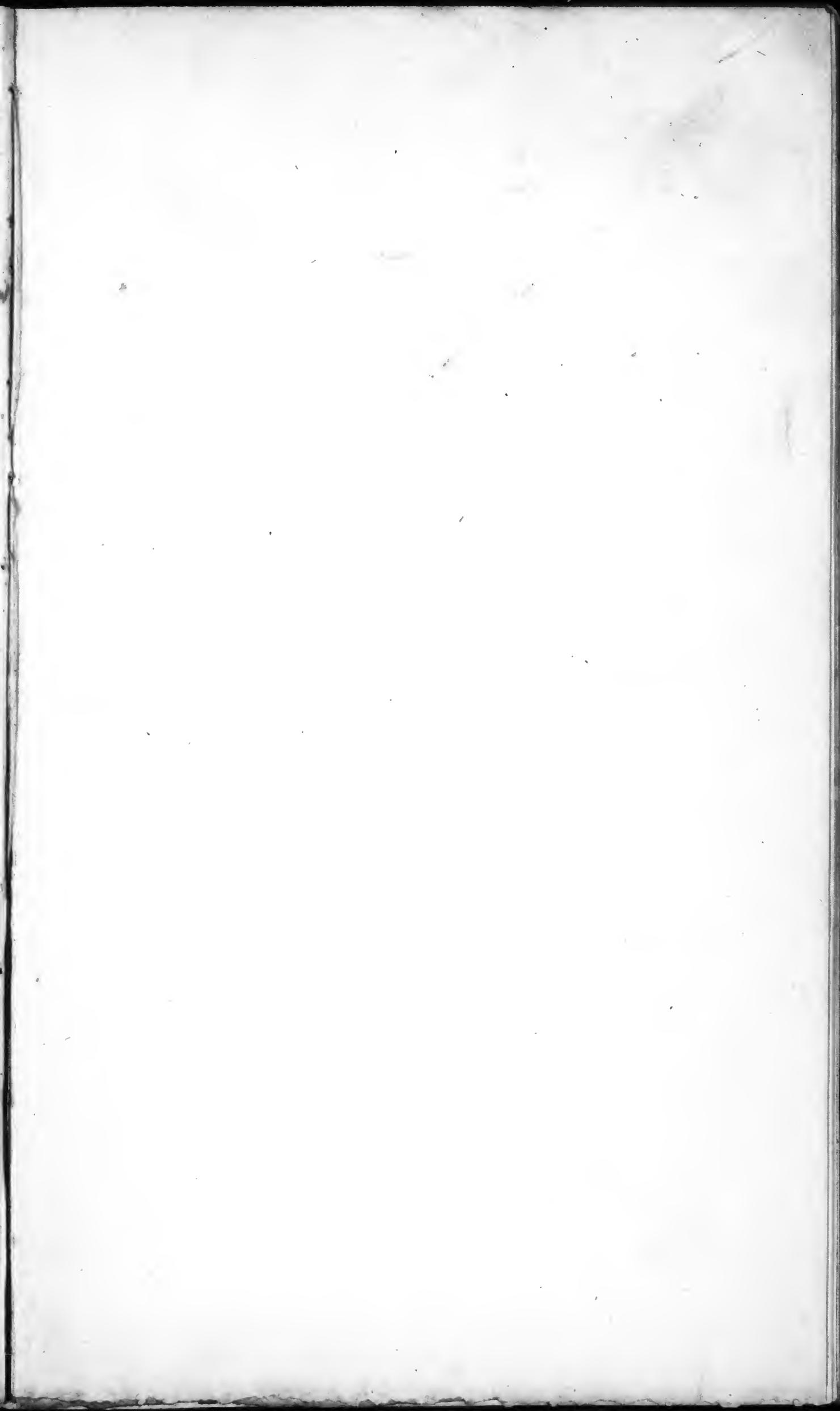
EXTRACTS FROM HER DIARY.

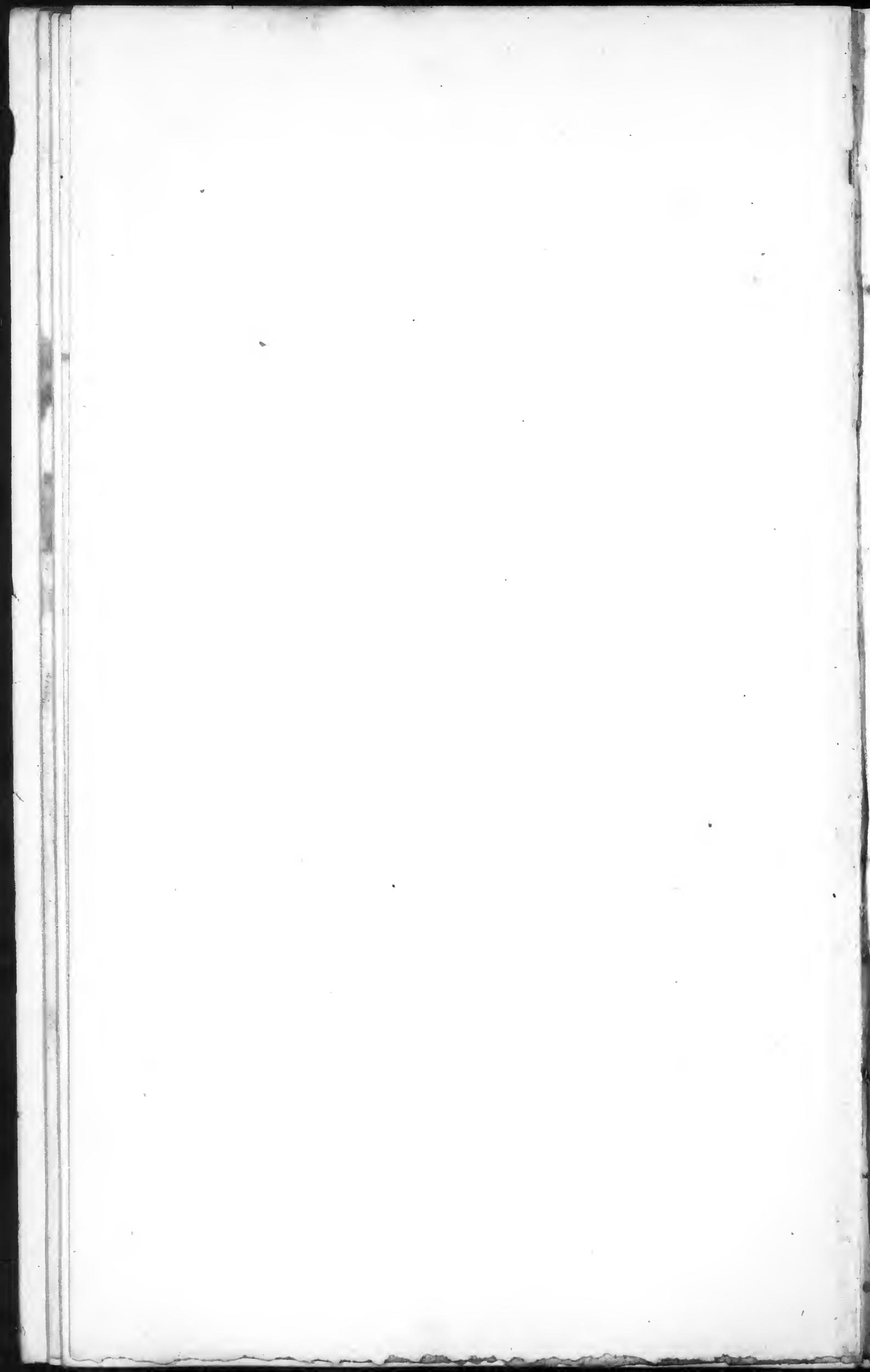


JAN. 1st, 1792. "Miss _____ came to spend the last day of the old year with me. Oh, what waste of time is *chit-chat*! I was condemned in myself, that we parted without prayer; all visits to me are empty and dry, if the precious name of Jesus is not the topic of our conversation.

That is the name, that charms my fears,
And bids my sorrows cease.

When I see my interest clear in the covenant of his blood, (as, I bless God, I do many times) I fear neither death nor hell, nor all the powers thereof; yet, at times, I find such a depth of unbelief in me, that sinks me low as the grave. But I have no way at such seasons, but to lay my soul at the feet of Jesus, and wait for his return. The ship





cannot sink; for, though the master seem to be asleep, he will awake, and rebuke the storm."

"The last night was a night of darkness, but joy returned in the morning. The portion of Scripture, for our morning service, was so suited to my state in the night, that the word was as marrow and fatness to my soul. These words were applied to my mind, 'I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee.'—Oh, how do I grieve for some, that seemed to bid fair for heaven! what has bewitched them? O delusive world, thou real cheat! what canst thou give but hell and destruction? Help me, Lord, to begin this *new* year with thee! O my God, full-fill all thy pleasure in and by me, the most unworthy of all thy servants! yet, I would love thee; thou knowest: I can appeal unto thee, I would rather die, than sin against thee."

Jan. 5. "Every day brings its Trials, and its Strength too; praise the Lord, O my soul!"

Every moment, Lord, I want
The merit of thy death."

Jan. 8. "To day the Lord helped me to go hear his word, after being confined *eight* weeks. I found myself low and dull, a poor helpless creature! As I sat, full of reasoning thoughts, the still small voice said, 'Go in peace, thy God is reconciled;' —his pardoning voice I hear—he owns me for his child: may I never doubt more!"

Jan. 12. "This has been a good day; the Lord increase my faith! make me joyful in hope, and patient in tribulation! May I to earthly pleasures die, and live to God alone!"

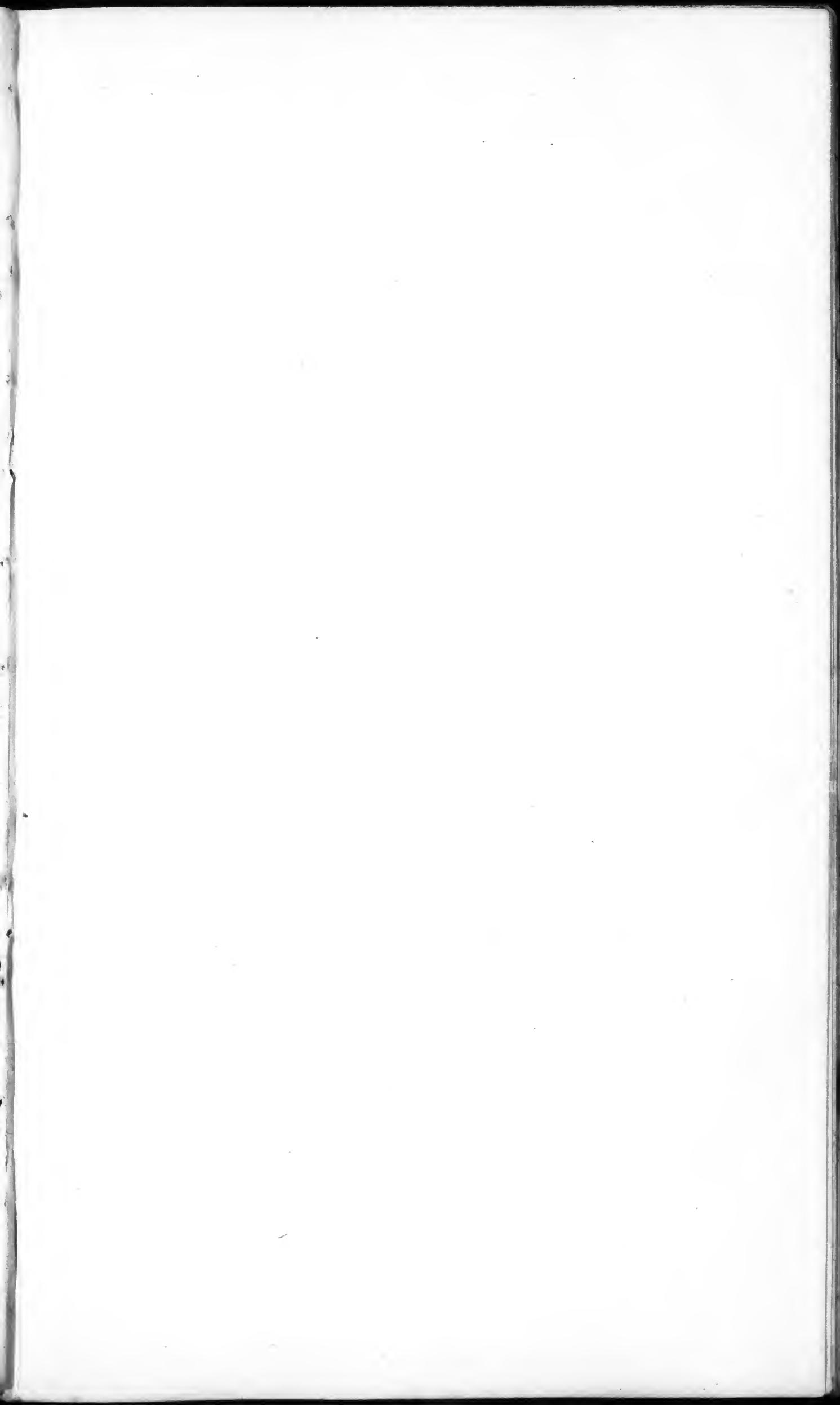
Help, Lord; to thee for help I call,
No other help I know;
If thou withdraw thy help from me,
Oh, whither shall I go?"

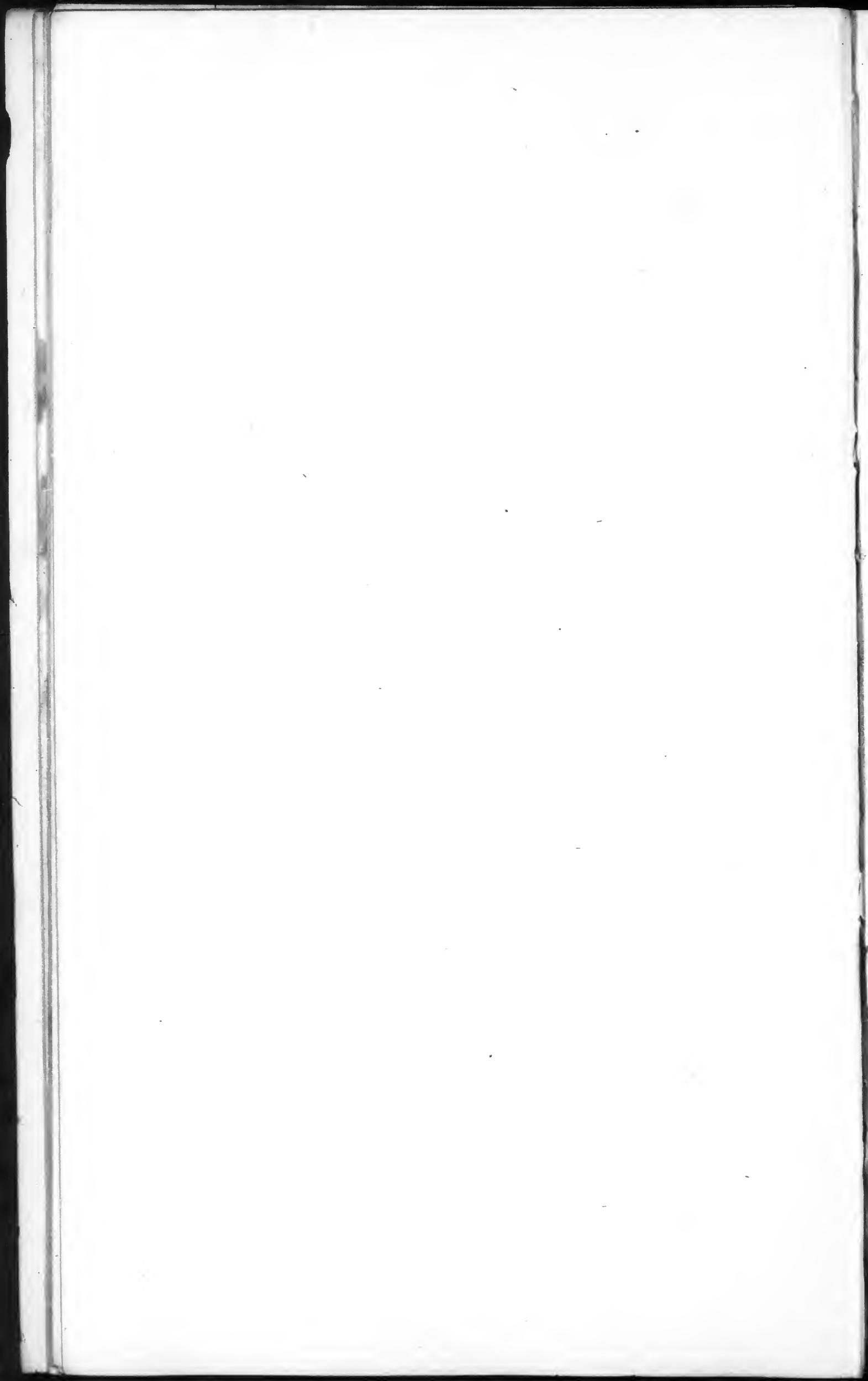
Jan. 17. "O Lord, search and try me; for I am making idols of any thing, if thou keep me not! Unless the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh in vain. I find the enemy day and night assaulting me; but my Lord sees all his serpentine ways, and will deliver; praise the Lord, O my soul!"

Jan. 23. "I have felt some sweet encouragement from my Lord this day, to fight the good fight of faith; oh, that I may lay hold on eternal life! I shall reap, if I faint not. I am amazed, to think how the Lord bears with such an unbelieving wretch as I am; but he will have mercy, on whom he will have mercy."

Jan. 27. "This day I finished *Flavel's Sermons*; may I not only read, but do the will of God, that I may inherit the promises! I humbly hope, that I desire truth in my inmost soul; Lord make me pure in heart, that I may see thee!"

Feb. 1. "Oh for more of that wisdom, which cometh from above, that I may be directed in the right way! for I am very ignorant. This day I was





desired to pray with some persons that came to visit me; but I neither found life nor liberty: words are not prayer. O thou blessed Son of God, make me free, and I shall be free indeed! What a pity it is, that when we meet together, we can talk of any thing but the *One thing needful!* Oh, for more zeal according to knowledge! O my dull heart, why art thou so backward? I have seen the day, when I would have reproved sin *in his Majesty*, without being afraid; and why not now?"

Feb. 11. "I received a letter from my son *W.* which yielded me much pleasure. It is my delight to hear that the work of the Lord prospers. O my God, carry it on with power! increase the number of true believers daily! increase thy praise, increase his joys! yea, may the joy of the Lord be his strength! may he be enabled to stand fast, and be faithful unto death, that the Lord may give him a crown of life!"

Feb. 19. "How sweet is it to enjoy communion with God! one drop of the Love of God makes full amends for all our trials: I had rather have a sense of this, by the Divine Spirit, than enjoy all the riches of both the Indies; yea, than all worlds."

My Jesus to know, and feel his blood flow,
Is life everlasting, and heaven below."

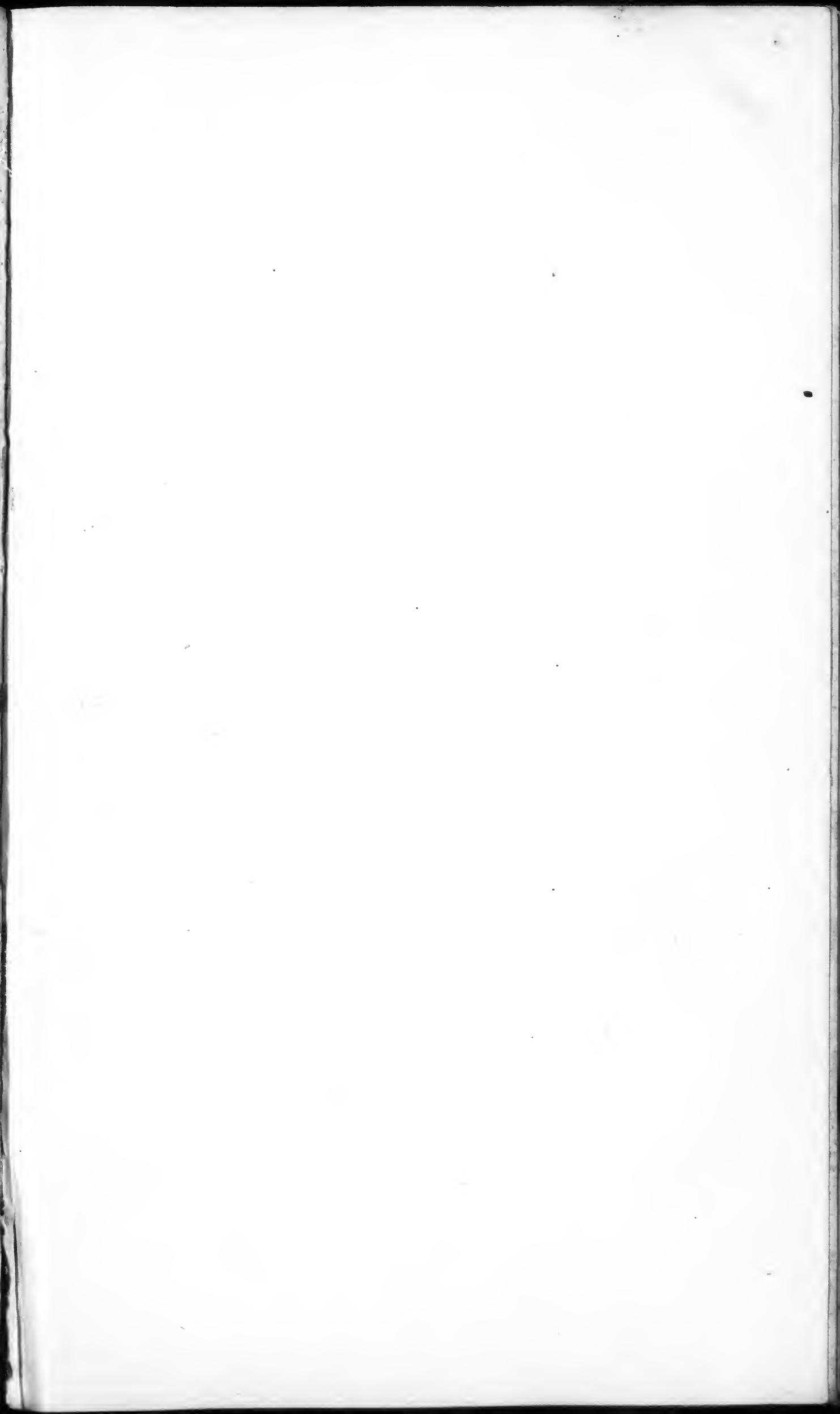
Feb. 24. "This has been a heavy day, yet a good one. It is good to wait on God; his ear at-

tends the softest prayer; but oh, how backward do I find my heart to the improvement of this privilege!

March 4. "This morning has been a good one; the Lord has been with us in family-worship, and comforted my soul greatly. O Lord, quicken me to run the way of thy commandments! How doth my soul mourn for some that did begin well, but now seem to be swallowed up of the world! I hope I have delivered my own soul, yet I will weep for them in secret places. I pray God embitter every sinful sweet, and hedge up their way with thorns, rather than they should run into destruction! It is not *beginning* well, but *finishing!* *Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life,* saith Christ, *but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.*"

March 5. "If I was mistress of the universe, it could not yield me one moment's real comfort; no, nothing short of Christ, being formed in my heart, can make me happy, living or dying: then, Lord Jesus, thou that seest and knowest my heart, come quickly, and finish thy work in me; make a speedy end of sin! I cannot deceive *thee*, let me not deceive myself!"

If rough and thorny be the way,
My strength proportion to my day;
Till toil and grief and pain shall cease,
Where all is calm, and joy and peace."



March 12. "I bless my God, who has enabled me to trust in him, as a *widow*, these *three* and *thirty* years; he is a promise-fulfilling God; I have ever found him faithful."

March 25. "Indeed, I am slow of heart to believe; yet, this day the Lord has greatly delighted my soul with his sweet presence. He is my God and Saviour, dearer every hour I live; I see more and more need of such a Saviour, as the Lord Jesus is, who can save me from *myself*. I fear no enemy but my own heart. Satan may storm the city, but he cannot force it by all his machinations, unless the foe within treacherously give him entrance; this I know by bitter experience: then, Lord, help me and every soul to resist the devil, that he may fly from us!"

April 8. "O Lord stand by me in this trying hour! Have I deceived myself with vain hopes? thou, Lord, knowest; search and try my heart! Oh, discover every false way! suffer nothing to pluck me out of thy hand! If thou slayest me, yet will I trust in thee; thou hast bidden me hold fast my confidence; *Lord, I believe, help thou my unbelief!* Thou canst make me clean; thy precious blood applied, cleanseth from all sin; this is all my plea, 'I the chief of sinners am, but Jesus died for me.' Here I rest my soul, my all; O Lord make me strong in faith, giving glory to thee, amen!"

" Speak, gracious Lord, and calm my fears ;
 Am I not safe beneath thy shade ?
 Thy vengeance will not strike me here,
 Nor Satan dare my soul invade."

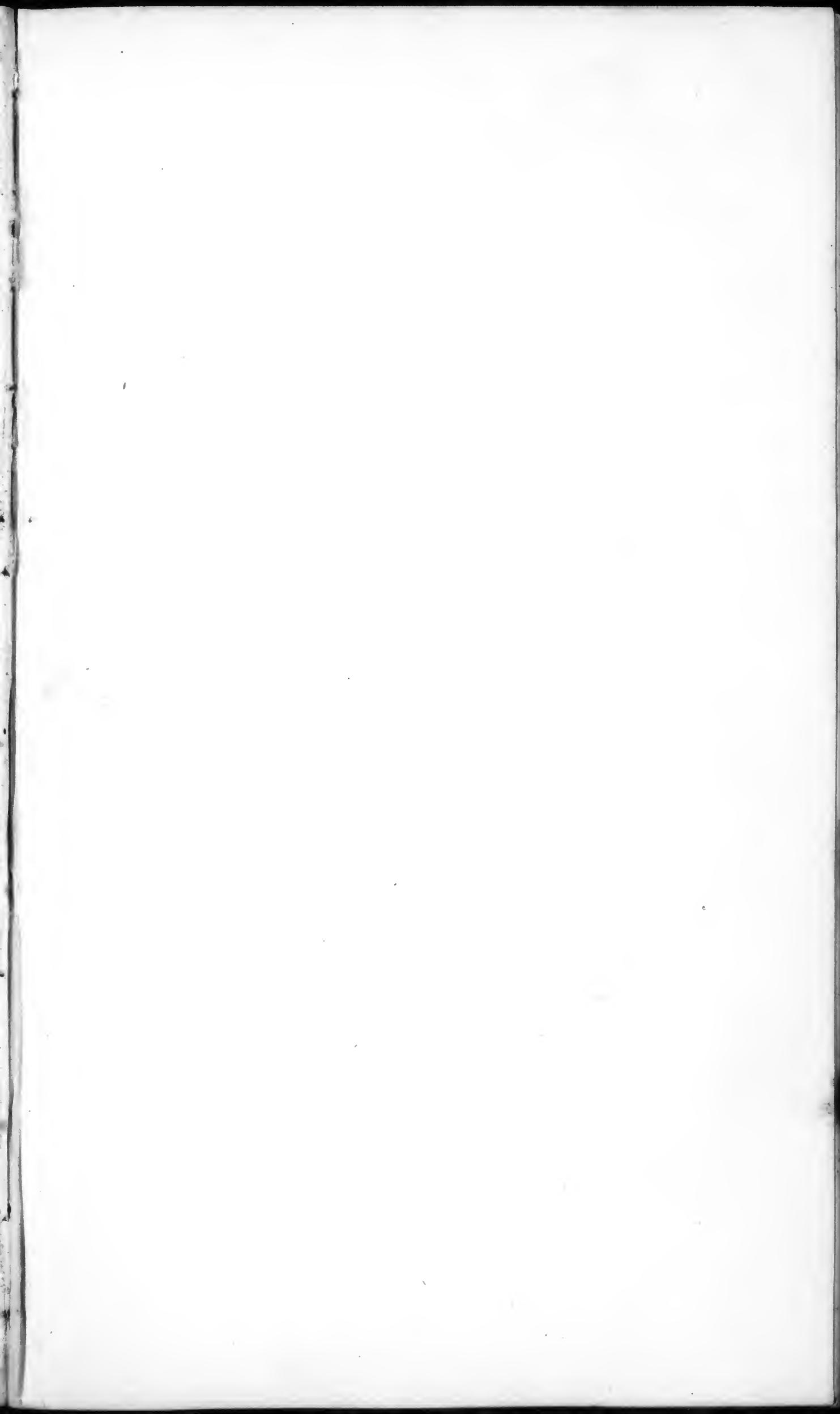
April 14. "I mourn—but, blessed be God, it is not for the world ; I have all that it can give me. I want to be more closely united to my dearest Lord ; I want my whole heart devoted to him.—

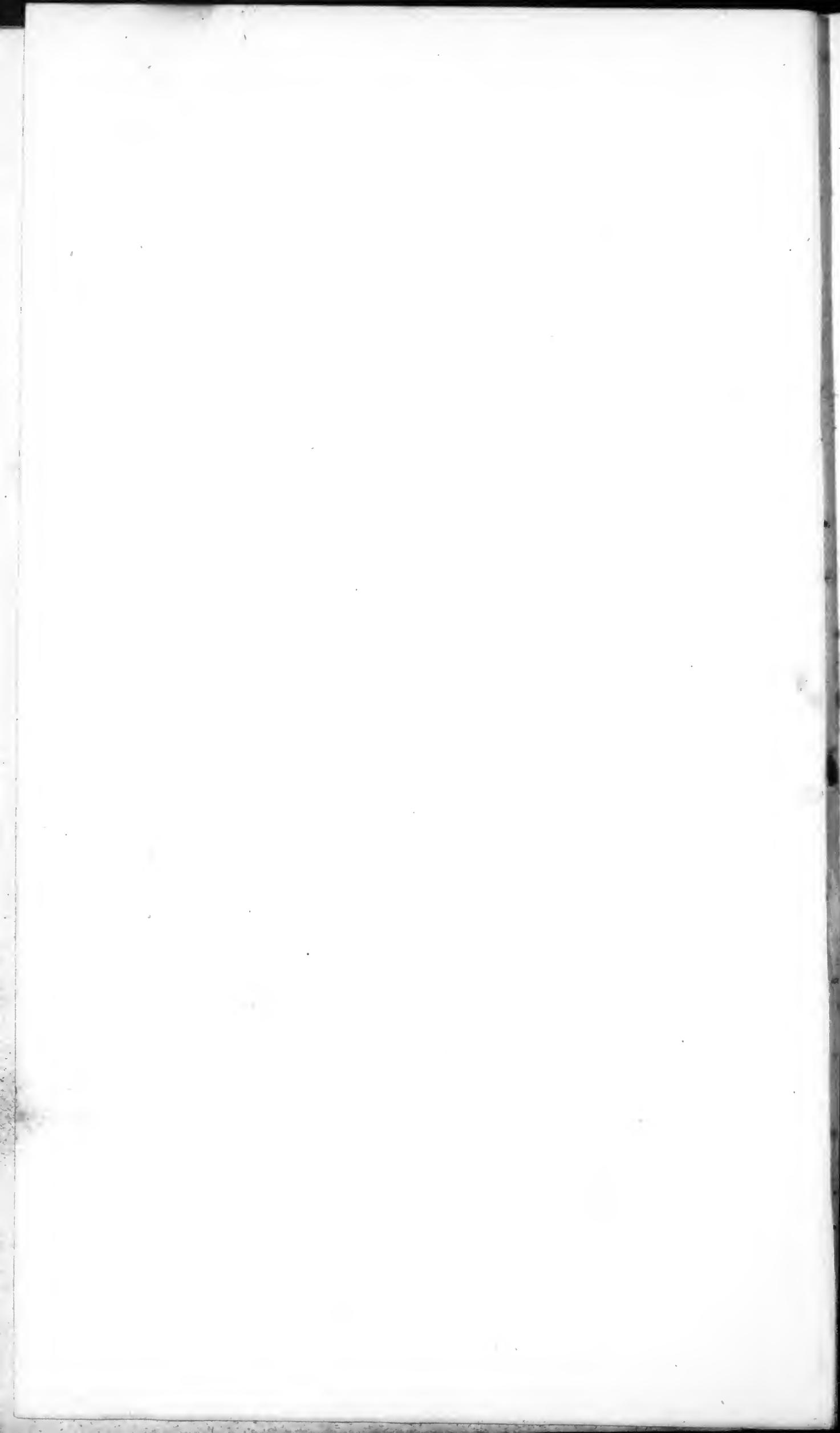
" What hast thou done my heart to gain ?
 Languish'd, and groan'd, and died ---"

I would love much, having had much forgiven. O my God, I would weep in tears of blood, if it would avail for my unfaithfulness ; but my tears themselves want washing ; how then can they avail ? in this view I detest them : the blood of Jesus alone can cleanse my sin ; in that is all my hope—

" I know no sacrifice beside,
 Lord, I'm condemn'd, but thou hast died."

Oh, the depth of unbelief ! what a wicked deceitful heart is mine ! how long shall I dispute, and reason with Satan against my own peace ? I have the veracity of Jehovah to rest upon for my salvation ; yea, he hath spoken to my soul, as with an audible voice, ' I am thy salvation.' Oh the loving-kindness and patience of our God ! to bear with me, such a sinner ! but my Advocate pleads my cause above ; for me he intercedes ; then, my soul, arise and tread the tempter down ; may I never





doubt more, but believe and rejoice in hope of his salvation!

April 30. "Hitherto the Lord has delivered; this day has been a good day; may the joy of the Lord be my strength! When will these shadows flee away, and the bright light shine from on high on my soul? I long to behold the King, the Lord of Hosts, in his beauty, high and lifted up, and his train filling the temple: fill my soul, O God, with thy presence! nothing less will satisfy."

May 6. "Who has enjoyed greater privileges in the church of Christ than myself? yet alas, what have I profited? I blush to think of my shortcomings. Have I not hid my talent in the earth? I fear I have; O Lord, lay not sin to my charge! Thou knowest, my soul weepeth in secret places for this, and what I feel this moment on its account. Were it not for the blood of Christ, which has made atonement, I should sink into despair. Blessed be God for Jesus Christ!"

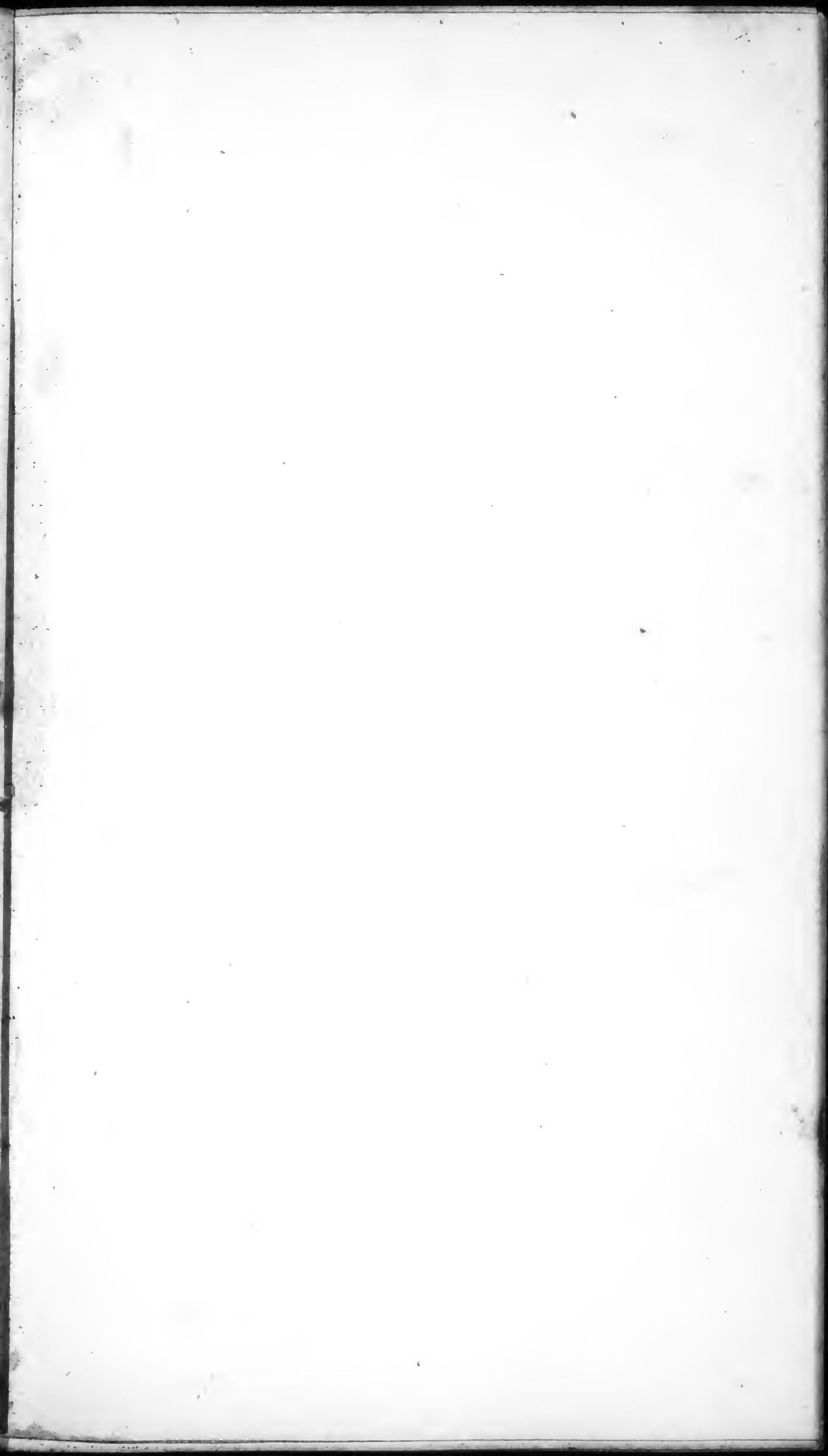
"Complete in him I shine!
His life his death is mine;
Freely am I justified,
Free from sin, and more than free;
Righteous, since for me he liv'd;
Guiltless, since for me he died."

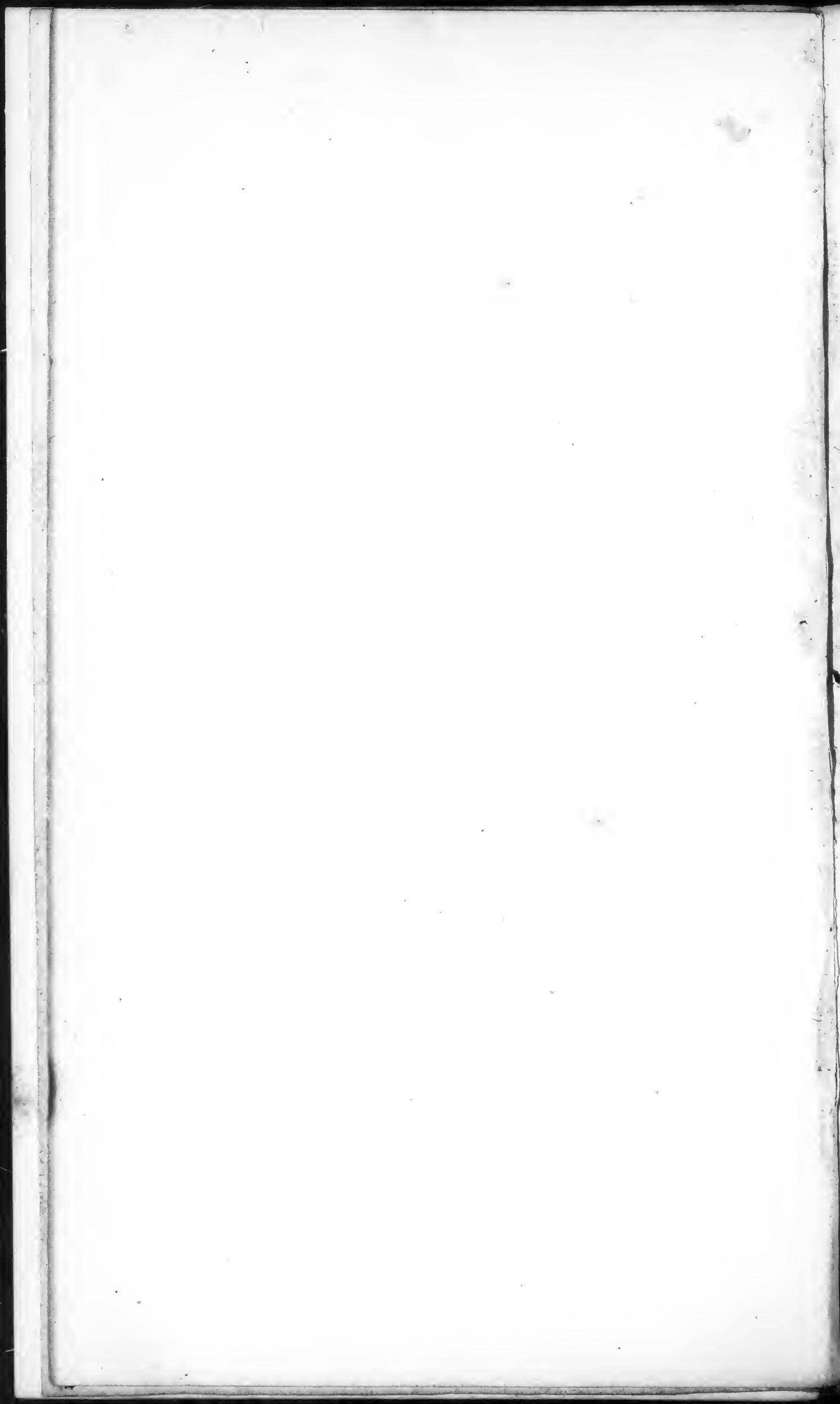
May 14. "This morning the Lord hath taken to himself my dear friend C. O. who departed rejoicing in Christ Jesus. She was a mother in Israel, a lover of God and his people: She died

beloved of all that knew her, and she was worthy. I took my leave of her the night before she died, believing we should meet again at the right hand of God; how soon, God knoweth. O Lord, make me ready! then no matter how soon. May I live every day as my last! I would have death in view every moment, that, when the King of terrors approacheth, he may not be formidable. What is death, but the door into eternity? my dear Saviour has entered, and taken possession for me, and has told me that where he is, there I shall be also, to behold his glory. Hallelujah!

May 27. "Some authors I love to read, and have been profited by their works; but the word of God is my chief delight; this cannot err. If I know my heart, it is my desire that my whole life may be squared by the rule laid down therein. O Lord, give me understanding, that I may know the will of God and my duty towards all men; how to act in my sphere of life! for, surely we were not sent into the world for our own sakes alone, but for the good of others, as far as we have ability. We should therefore consider, what place we are in, whether an eye, or a hand, or a foot in the body of Christ, and act as such."

June 7. "How dull and heavy do I find my soul! how distant from my chief delight! how do I groan under the burden of a carnal mind! what pride, what self, is ever stirring in my heart! O God, I pray thee, mortify the old man within me,





that I may live to thee alone! ‘ When I would do good, evil is present with me:’ whither can I fly from *myself*? only to the fountain of Jesus’s blood; there would I ever lay, with *Mary* at my Saviour’s feet, which best becomes such a sinner.”

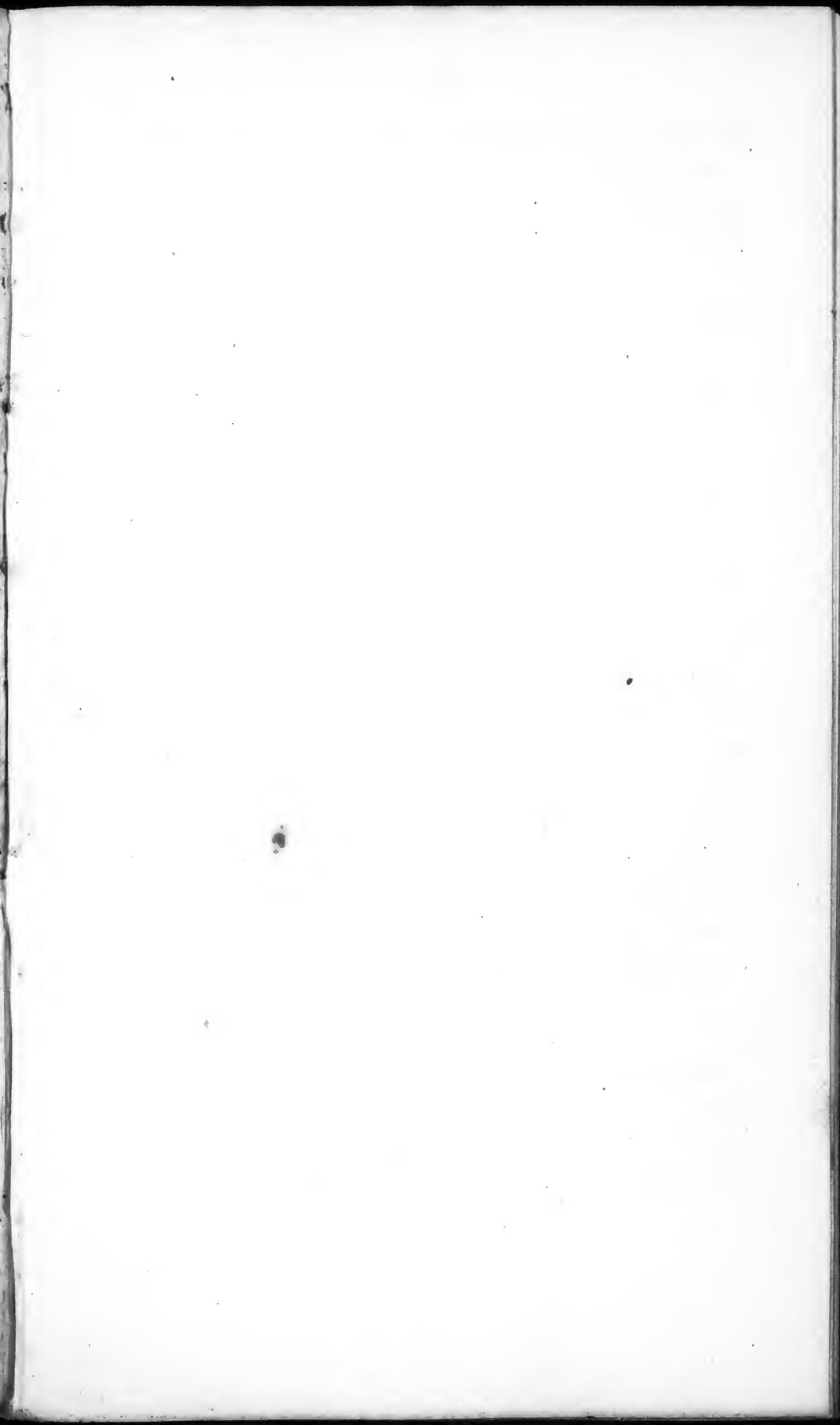
June 30. “ The Lord giveth strength to them that have no might of their own;” then, O Lord, I claim thy promise, for thou knowest I am all weakness.”

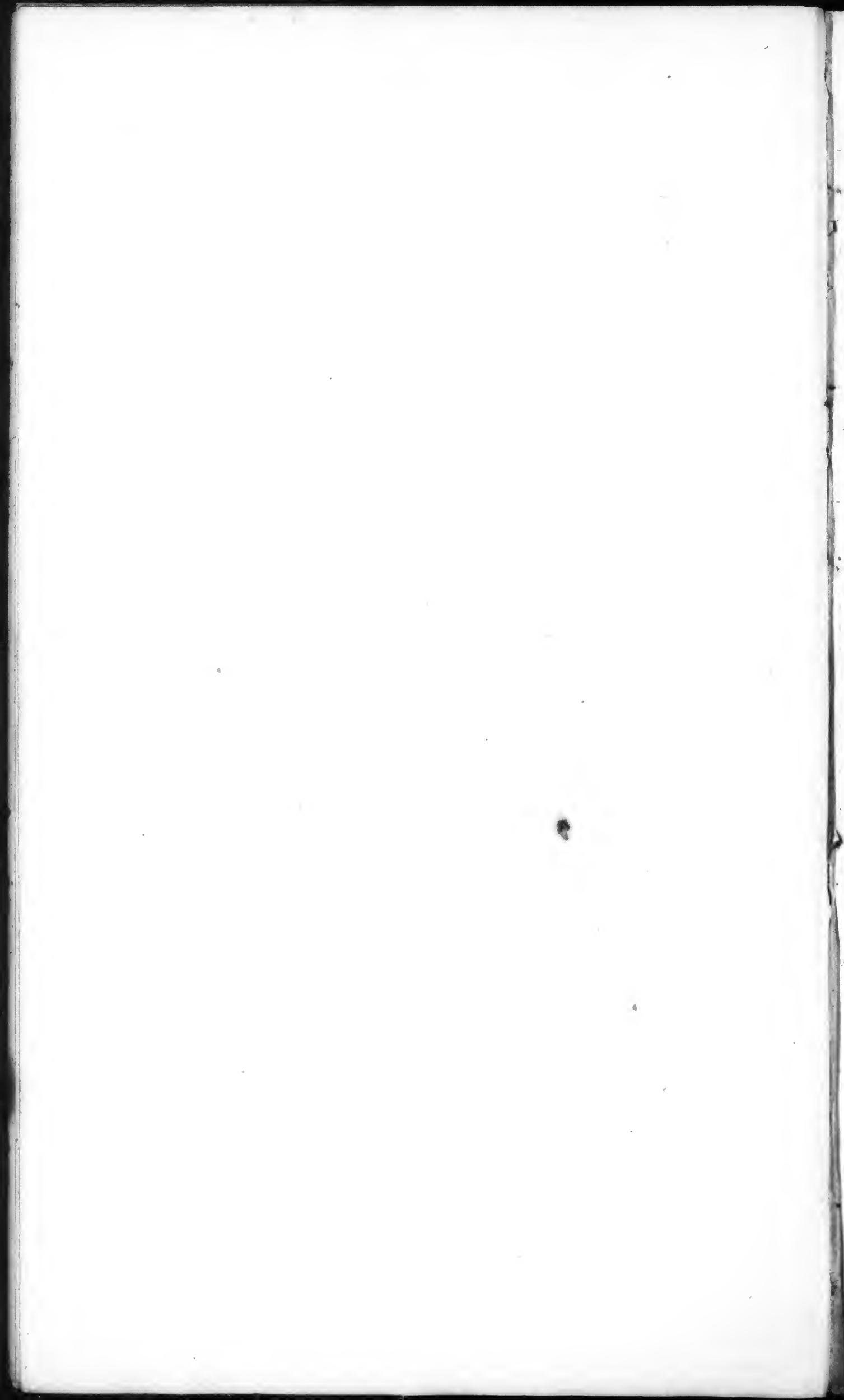
July 16. “ O Lord, thou knowest I have need of comfort; no tongue can express my grief: yet, it is not strange; the dear Son of God was sorely tempted; he was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. Then my soul, be content to bear the marks of thy dearest Lord; take up thy cross, and follow him through evil and good report. We must through much tribulation enter the kingdom of heaven.”

August 26. “ What is man in his fallen state, but half brute, half devil? the unregenerate heart is a cage of unclean birds; all manner of abominations dwell there. It is one thing, however, to say thus, and another to *feel* it so. It is one thing to say I am a sinner, and another to feel myself under the wrath and curse of God for my sins. Many will complain of themselves, and say, ‘ Oh, I am very sinful, my heart is wicked, &c. but still they go on in sin, and rest content. I am persuaded, if they felt what they say, they could not stop there, till God avenged them of their enemies.’ ”

And who are these? principally, the sin of *unbelief*; whence spring pride and self, and anger, &c. These my soul has groaned under, yet, I bless God, they do not lead me captive; no, I hate them with a perfect hatred. If these reign, we can have no peace with God; for “his servants we are to whom we obey, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness.” God is of purer eyes than to look upon sin with the least allowance or approbation; and without holiness no man shall see the Lord. Then, how, my soul, wilt thou stand before him? not in any holiness which is wrought in thee, even by the influences of the Divine Spirit, but in that perfect righteousness, which the Son of God wrought out by his life and death; this alone can give thee a title to eternal life: nevertheless, what God is pleased to work in me by his blessed Spirit, (and I pray God fill my whole soul more and more with himself) is to *qualify* me for heaven; else I could not associate and converse with the glorious hosts above; for “no unclean thing shall enter the new Jerusalem.”

September 26. “It is hard to give up our *All* to Him who gave us all we enjoy, yet it must be done. Of myself I can do nothing, but through Christ strengthening me, I can do all things. Then, O Lord, I beseech thee, make me able and willing to do, and to suffer thy will to be done in and by me! Oh, for such a heart as leaves the whole to





God! thus I can say with all my heart; I would with every breath praise my God. Oh, to grace how great a debtor! blessed be God, who made me sensible that is by grace alone I am saved, and enjoy all mercies."

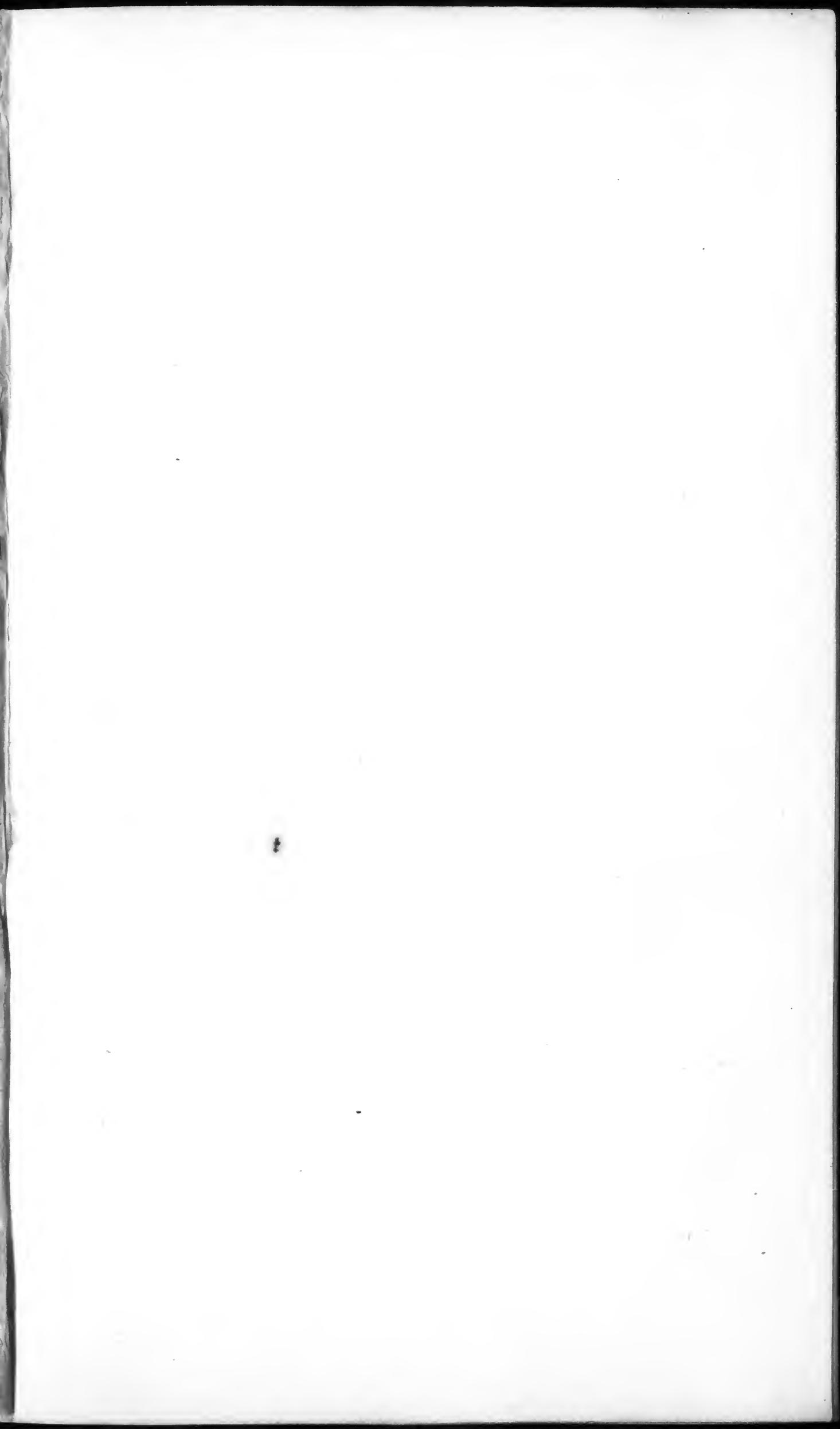
November 8. "This day I had notice to leave this house; it is well: this puts me in mind, that here I have no continuing City, but am a stranger and pilgrim as all my fathers were; but I bless God, who has inclined me to seek a city that hath foundations, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

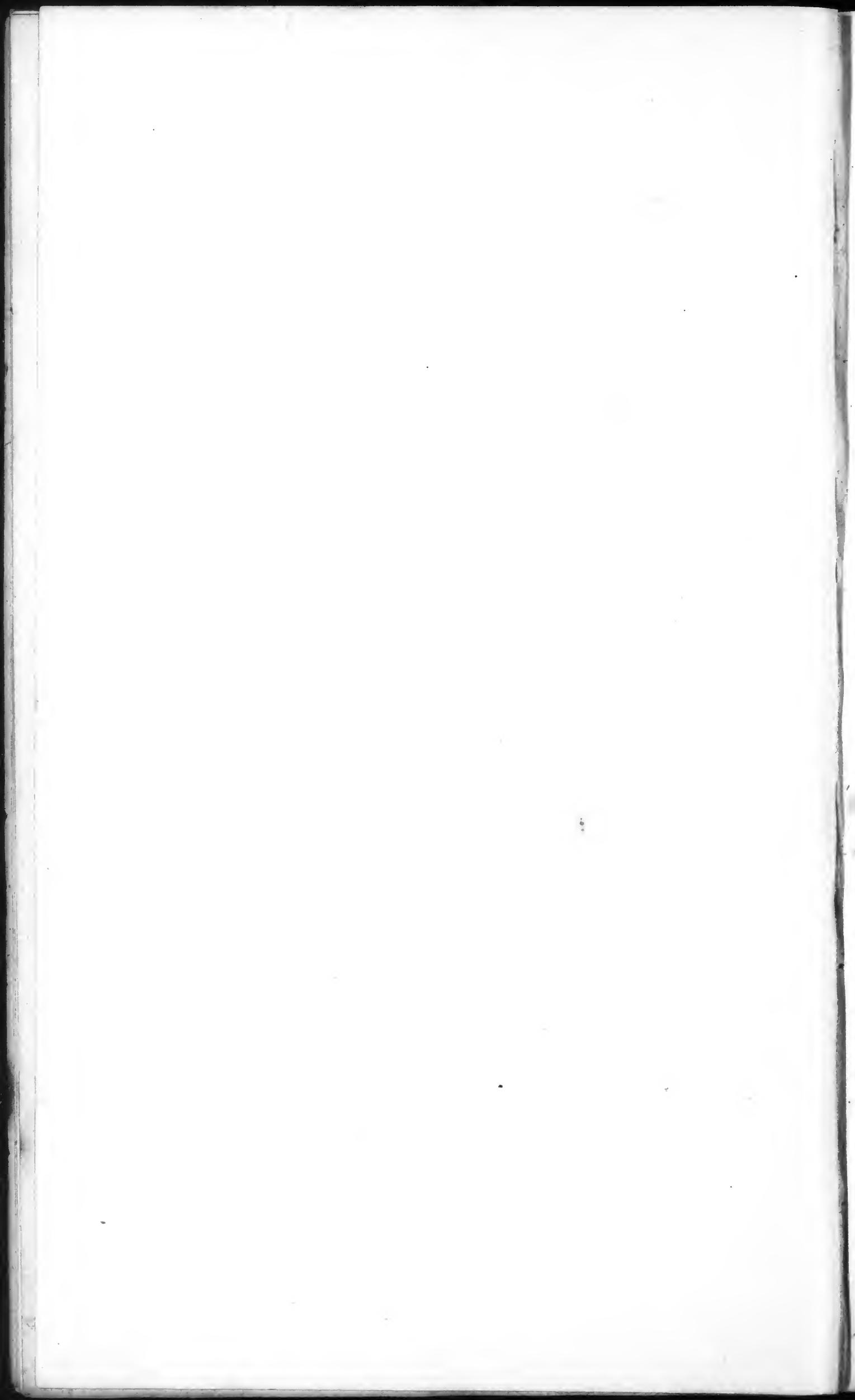
November 30. "It is good to wait upon God; the face of Moses shone, when he came down from the mount, after he had been conversing with the LORD of hosts. And is it not true of every Christian, when he has been conversing with God in meditation and prayer, (if the intercourse has been open between God and his soul) that he afterwards shines in humility, meekness, love, and spiritual mindedness? This moment I feel a little what this means. I am astonished, to think that the Almighty should stoop to hear such a sinner as me! Oh, that I could extol him! Lord, increase my capacity of loving and serving thee!"

December 25. "Having caught cold, and not regarding it, I was seized with a dangerous disorder, which brought me almost to the grave; but, for some reason (unknown to myself, yet well understood by Him that worketh all things after the

counsel of his own will) I was countermanded, when I thought myself in sight of my port, with my sails spread, and filled with the gales of the Divine Spirit. How have I seen, when I have been upon the ocean, a ship with all her sails unfurled, and right before the wind, the mariners rejoicing, and myself with them, thinking we were so near our desired haven ; when suddenly a cross wind has sprung up, and blown us quite away to another port, and that for several days ! So am I ; Lord help me to improve the time, because the days are evil ! The Lord's hand is stretched out, as if he was shaking all nations. Indeed, to me it seems plain, that he is hastening his coming. The signs appear. O Lord, help me to watch, that I may have my loins girt, my lamp trimmed, and my light shining ; that I may meet my Lord with joy ! Amen !”

1793.—June 24. “I came to live at....., O Lord dwell thou with me, and make my house a house of prayer ! Thou knowest my mind has been all hurry for some time ; yet, blessed be thy name, thou hast been with me. Surely thou art good to Israel. The Lord has given me a *Daughter-in-law*, one of a thousand ; O Lord, be thou unto her as the dew unto Israel ; give unto her, and my dear *Child*, the friend of her bosom, much grace, and more grace ! that they may be wholly devoted to God with all they have and are. I hope this is their desire ; I have cause to believe it :





Oh, may I yet see the fruits of grace abound in them ! They are good and kind to me ; how shall I praise my God, who is the moving cause of all ? —This world is full of noise and calamity, occasioned by sin : Save Lord, or I perish ! I have need of power to watch and pray, for I find enemies without and within, and my own heart the worst of all ; but God is greater than my heart, and on him I rely. But oh ! this unbelief, that damning sin ! I feel it deeply rooted in my nature ; but Jesus says, *I have prayed for thee, that thy fail not.*—I cannot say, that I find those *transports of joy*, which I have experienced in times past ; but, I bless God, I find a *solid hope*, that enables me to rest my all upon the atonement made by the Lamb : there will I trust my soul, yea, ten thousand if I had them. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath made me sensible, that neither I, nor any one else, *can call Jesus Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.*

“ I rest upon thy word,
The promise is for me ;
My succour and salvation, Lord,
Shall surely come from thee.”

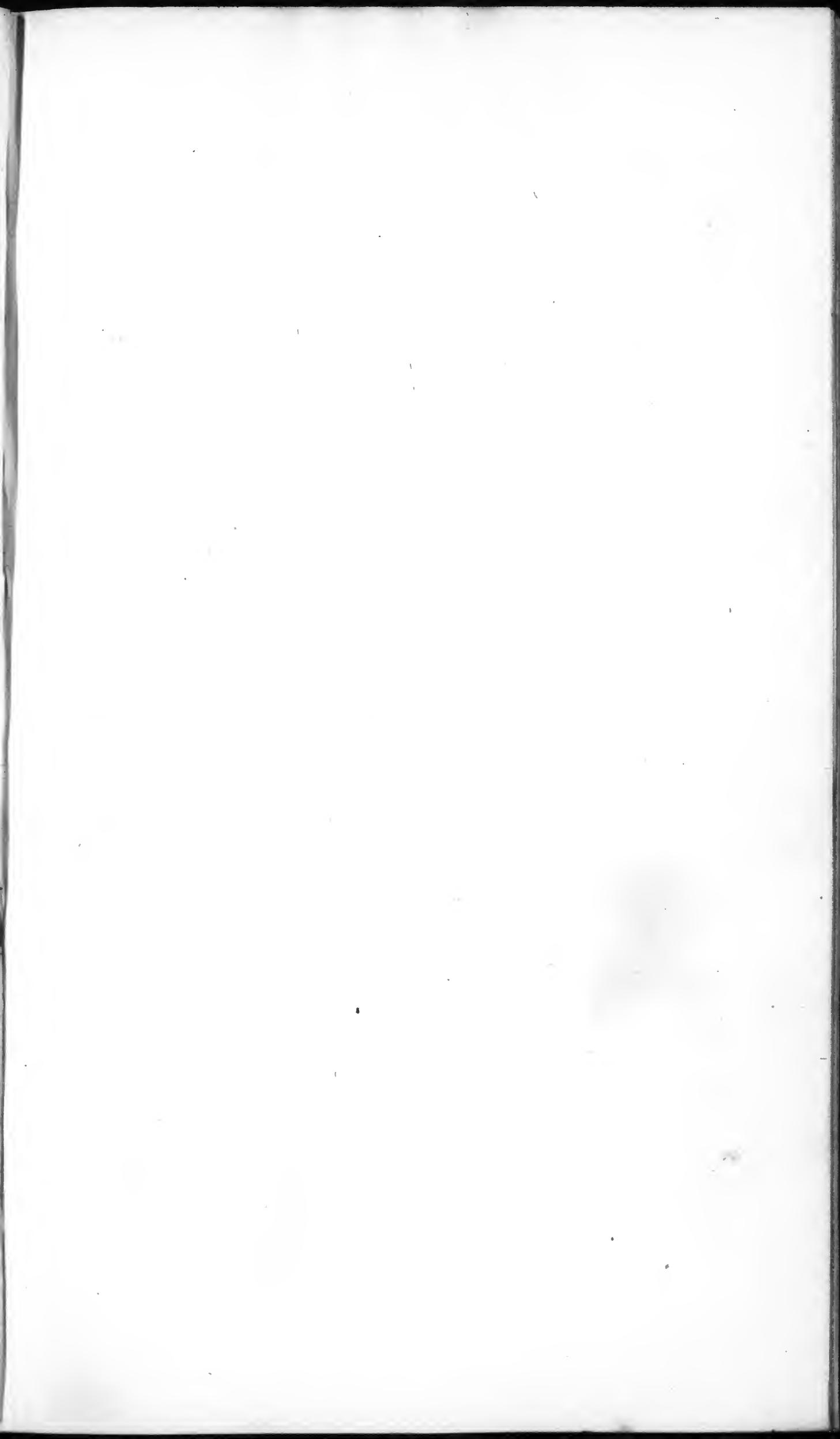
I have this morning written it in "Jesus I hang upon thy word."

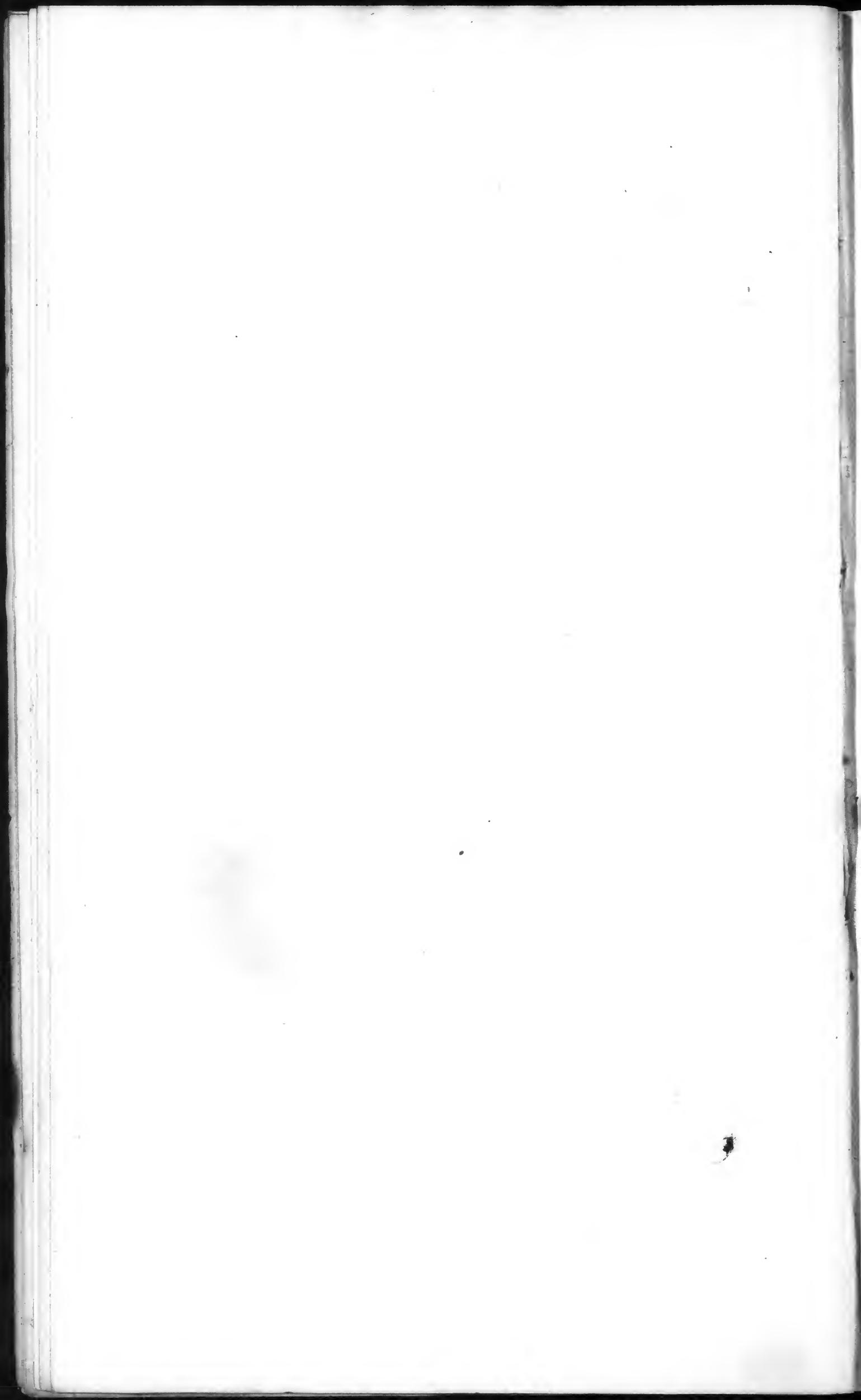
August 27. “ I have this morning finished Mr. Newton’s two volumes of Letters. In my opinion they are worth their weight in gold. They are the soundest experience of any I have read. My heart

tallies with his, as face answers to face in a glass. I bless God, that they were ever put into my hands."

— "When I came to live at C——, I promised myself great pleasure amongst the people of God. I proposed to several, to set up private meetings amongst the *women*, for prayer and religious conference; but they all made excuses. This was a grief to me; yea, it hurt my spirit, and caused me to go mourning many days. The spirit that was amongst them was quite different to what I had been used to; there was such stiffness and shyness in their looks, as if they would say, '*Stand by, we are holier than you.*' If I had not known in whom I had believed, and something of my own heart, I might have thought their religion all a delusion, and been turned out of the way. But, blessed be God, he kept me from taking offence. He knew my aim was right; therefore I persevered in going amongst them to hear the Gospel. Oh for the mind that was in Christ! if we are Christians, we must act according to the rule laid down in his word."

Sept. 1. "Backbiters and Talebearers are Satan's agents; they would set a whole country by the ears; such I would not have enter my house. When I say, 'I would not hear them,' the answer is, 'we cannot stop our ears;' well, but *I would stop their mouths*, by saying, 'I will hear no evil speaking.' Indeed, this is a sin we should flee





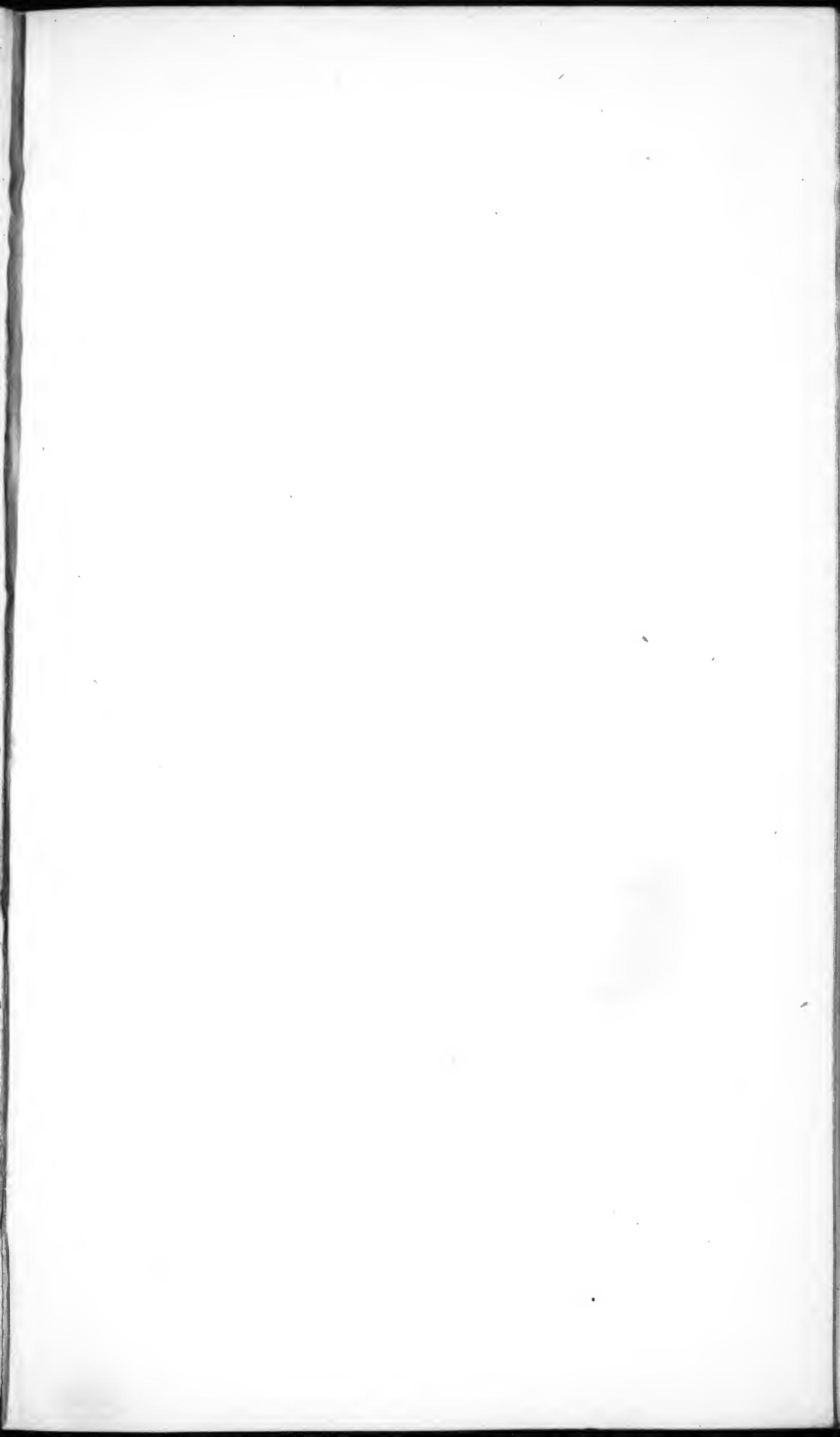
from, as from the face of a serpent. I can truly say, I have been pained to my heart by hearing evilspeaking. I have condemned myself, as a sinner, for not reproving it. We have rules laid down in Scripture for the whole deportment of our lives ; and by these we ought to walk. *Be swift to hear, and slow to speak,* is a good *watch word* in all companies. I have been blamed for speaking too little in company, but I would rather err on that hand, than by speaking too much ; speaking to *profit* is all. If we had a sense of the Divine presence, we should be more cautious both of what we speak and do. The Glory of God should be uppermost in all ; but do we not too often speak to *please ourselves* ? Ah, pride and self are deeply rooted in me ; I feel them moving in every point. O wretched creature, what am I sunk into by the *Fall !* into the nature both of *Beast* and *Devil*. It is a blessing to know this ; but a greater blessing, to know that I am redeemed out of that horrible state, by the dear Son of God becoming surety for me. He took upon him human nature, to die the death for ME : here I am lost.”—

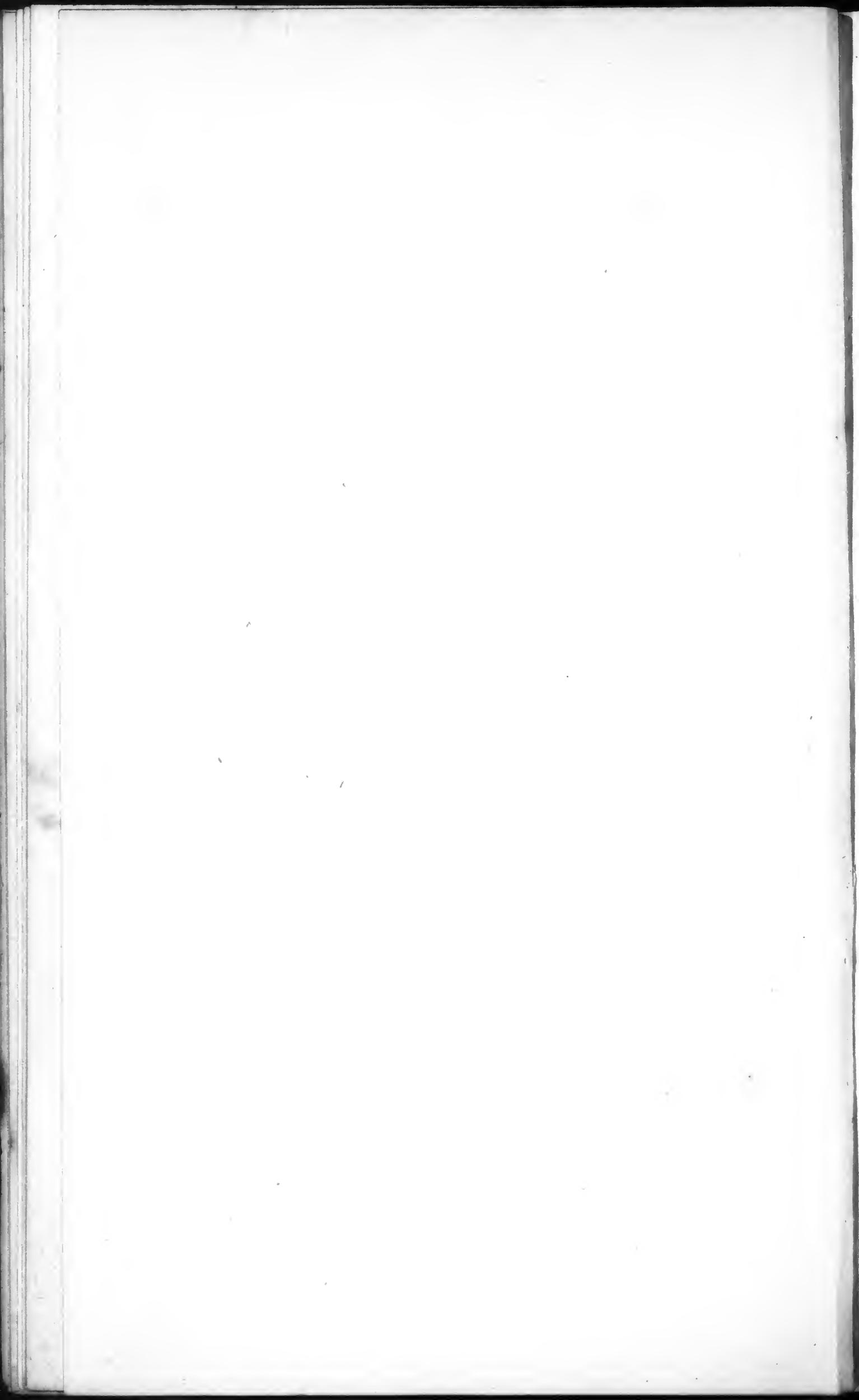
Sept. 2. “ This day my soul has been deeply wounded by *anger*, which has also grieved the blessed Spirit. O Lord, save me from this sin, which easily besets me ! No one knows what I suffer through it ; but thou, Lord, knowest that I long for deliverance, when will it be ? I am far indeed from being perfect ; but, should this dis-

courage me from pressing after holiness ? far otherwise : I am to forget the things that are behind, and to press after the image of my Lord. Not that I would forget my sin, no ; for the sense of sin should humble us, and drive us nearer to our advocate, who pleads our cause before the throne."

— "I am ashamed and confounded before God, for what has happened this day. A woman with three children came to my door, to ask charity ; I found my heart rise against her ; but why, I could give no reason : I did relieve her, but I am sure much against my mind ; *this cannot be charity.* But, whatever it was, it drove me to God both for myself and the woman and her children. I am ashamed before God for the unchristian temper I felt in myself. I think I am farther from the mind of Christ, than I was fifty years ago. O Lord, destroy all the works of the Devil in my soul, and make me pure in heart, that I may see thee, amen !"

Sept. 9. "*Man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward* ; and it is happy that God hath so decreed it ; for fallen man can no more do without trials, than his body without meat. I find, if I was always to be at ease, I should sink into a dead lifeless form of religion ; and if so, I should be a most miserable creature. I pray God keep my soul awake by whatever means he chooseth ! His will is best, and he hath bound himself to give strength for my day ; then, come what will, let





me encourage myself in my God, and fear not what earth or hell can do.

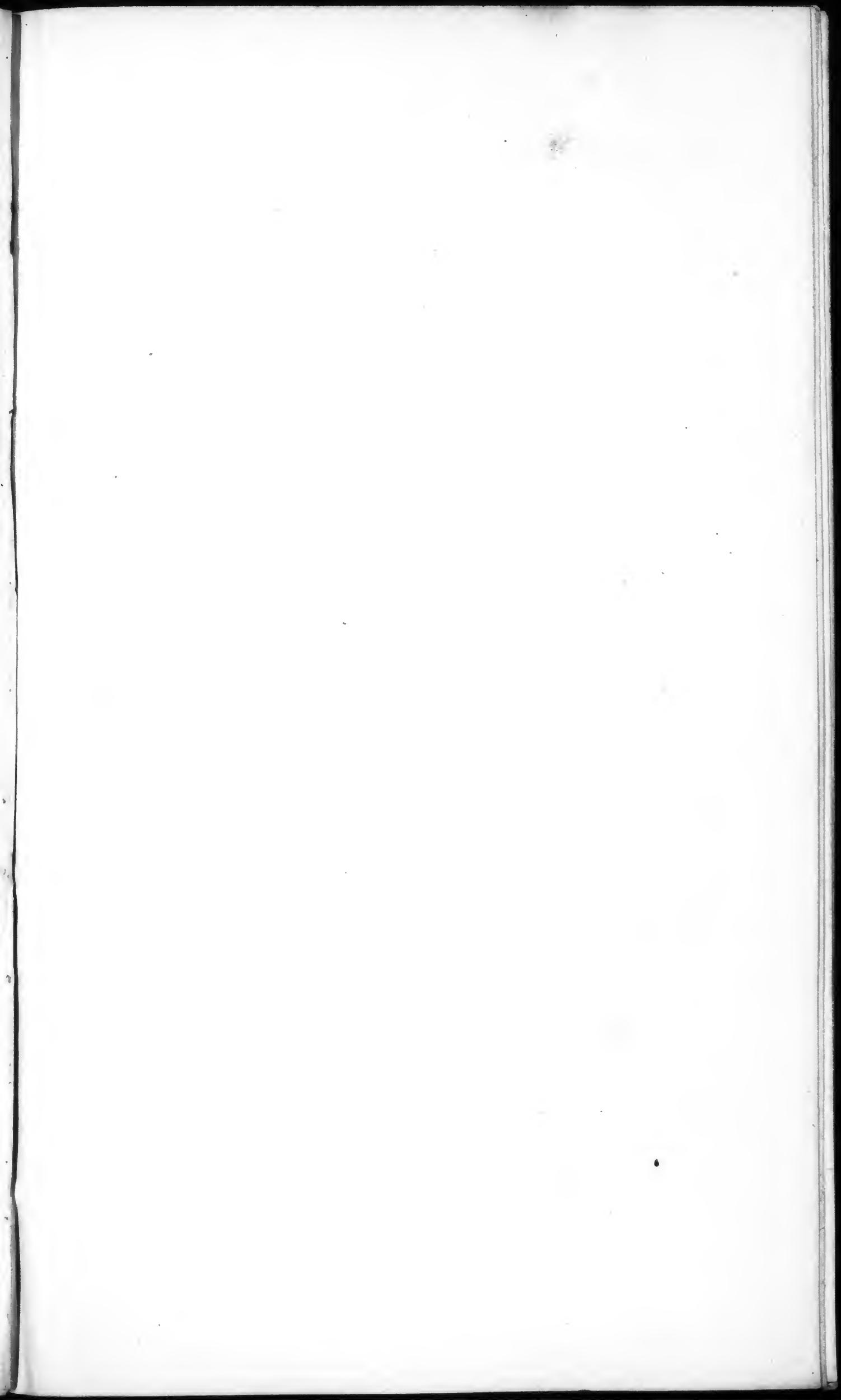
*"I shall o'ercome through Christ alone,
And more than conqueror prove."*

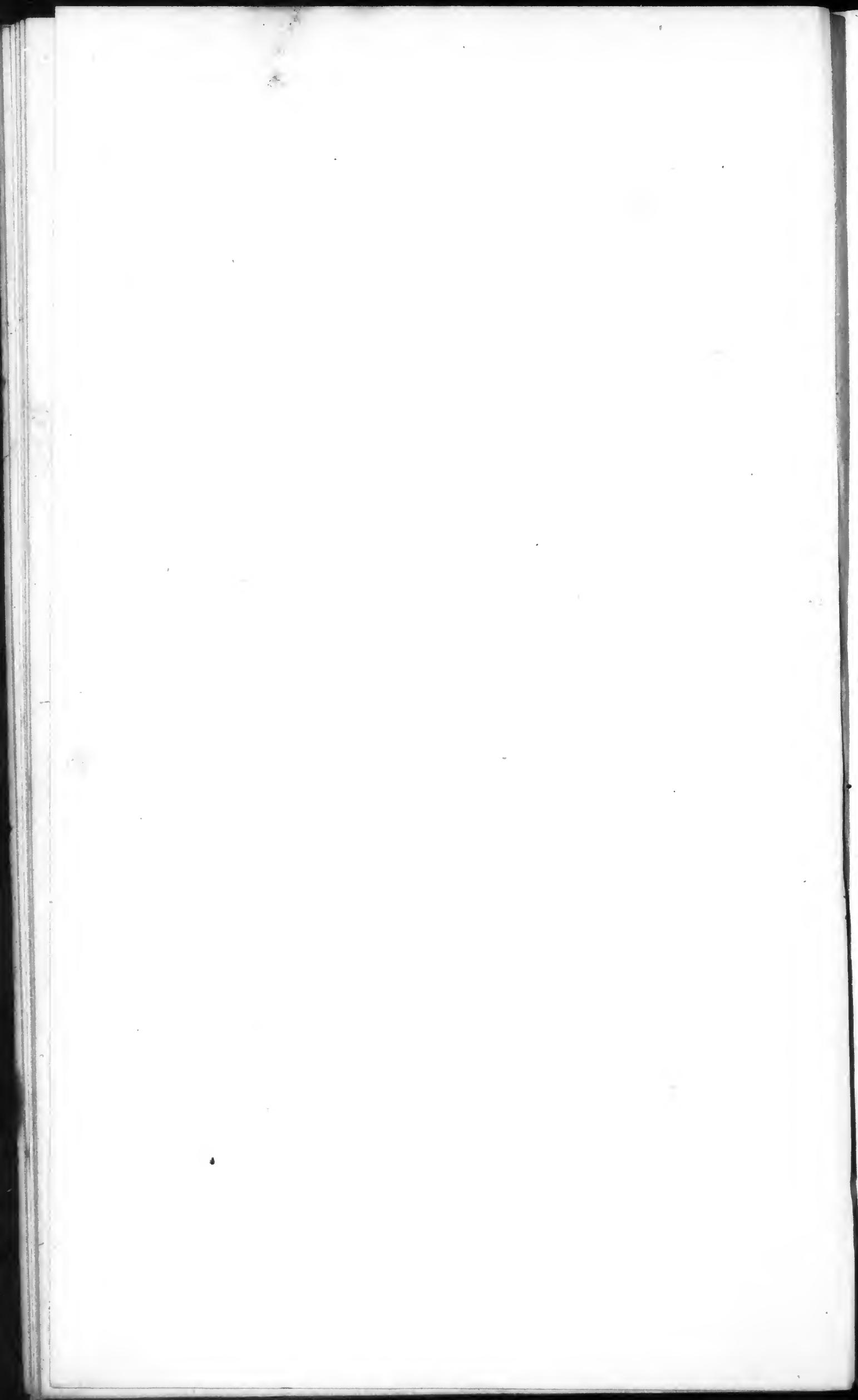
October 4. "What should the spirit of a Christian be at all times? Cheerful, without levity—solid, without surliness; always acting as in the presence of God. This, I can appeal unto God, I long for. Always I want to feel that reverent awe, that fills the hosts above. When I consider what I am, and what God is, that is *glorious in holiness, and fearful in praises*, I am lost. And must *I stand before this God?* Yes, as sure as I am writing these lines. But this is my comfort, I shall not stand in my own righteousness, but in my Elder Brother's garment, the robe of his spotless righteousness."

Oct. 8. "This was a heavy day to me. I dare not connive at sin, for it will find us out, be it ever so secret. Indeed, I own before God my weakness, that I am of a *sharp spirit*, and my manner of reproof may seem to some persons to be wrong; but, I can appeal to God, my aim is his glory, and their good to whom I speak. I dare not but do it in anywise. I leave the event to God, to whom I must give an account. His word says, *thou shalt not suffer sin upon thy brother, but shalt reprove him in any wise*, this is my warrant.—Some, I fear, are content to get so much religion, as will save them from the fear of

hell ; but in this they are wofully deceiving themselves. For, true religion not only saves from the fear of hell, but it makes truly happy, and works a crucifixion in us to this vain world, with all its delusive joys. Where God has taken possession of the heart, he takes away the love of all those things that once led us captive, and gives us power to lead them captive. All the love, that such loved other things with before, is turned to the love of God ; and it is their grief, that they cannot love him more, and serve him better : I am sure it is mine ; and, I believe true grace has the same effect in all. Oh, it is a sad and bitter thing to lose the power of grace in the heart ! it is not so easy to recover it ; it costs many a deep groan and piercing sigh, if ever we come to enjoy that happiness we had in our first love. I am speaking from dear bought experience ; therefore we ought to shun the very appearance of evil. Many things may appear to us *innocent*, and in themselves may be so ; but the *manner of using* them is all. We do not consider, what the end will be, till we find the bite of the serpent."

Oct. 19. " To day, reading Mr. John Wesley's Journal, how did I lament in calling to mind those happy days in the church he mentions ! for I was an eye and ear-witness of those persons God was pleased to work upon in that extraordinary way. Oh, I am grieved to feel myself so low and dead ; grovelling here below my privileges as a child of





God ! O Lord, quicken and raise my soul to things above, that I may have my conversation in heaven, and my fellowship with the Father and his Son Jesus Christ ! My soul hath enjoyed that happy state in a degree ; why not now ? it is the Lord's will, that I should *rejoice evermore* ; but my un-faithfulness makes me many times hang my *harp upon the willows*, crying out, *my leanness, my leanness*. O my God, when wilt thou return, and restore the light of thy sweet countenance, and that holy familiarity I have enjoyed with thee !”

Oct. 22. “ Last night two or three of us began a *band-meeting*, I hope our intention is right. This is what I have wanted long, but could not accomplish my purpose ; when I had given it up, the Lord has brought it to pass ; may he give his blessing, Amen !”

Oct. 29. “ How shall I praise my God for all his goodness to me, the chief of sinners ! I have gone mourning and forlorn, not having any of my own to speak to ; but the Lord has had pity on me, and sent my dear *W.* and his other self, who is as tender over me as my own daughter, to be a comfort to me in my old age. I can truly say, I have had more comfort these *six months*, than I had for *thirty-four years*. May thy mercies, O Lord, humble me into the dust, and not lift me up ! The Lord giveth grace to the humble. But Oh, I am ashamed to say, yet must confess, I feel a depth of *pride* and *self* in every motion, enough to

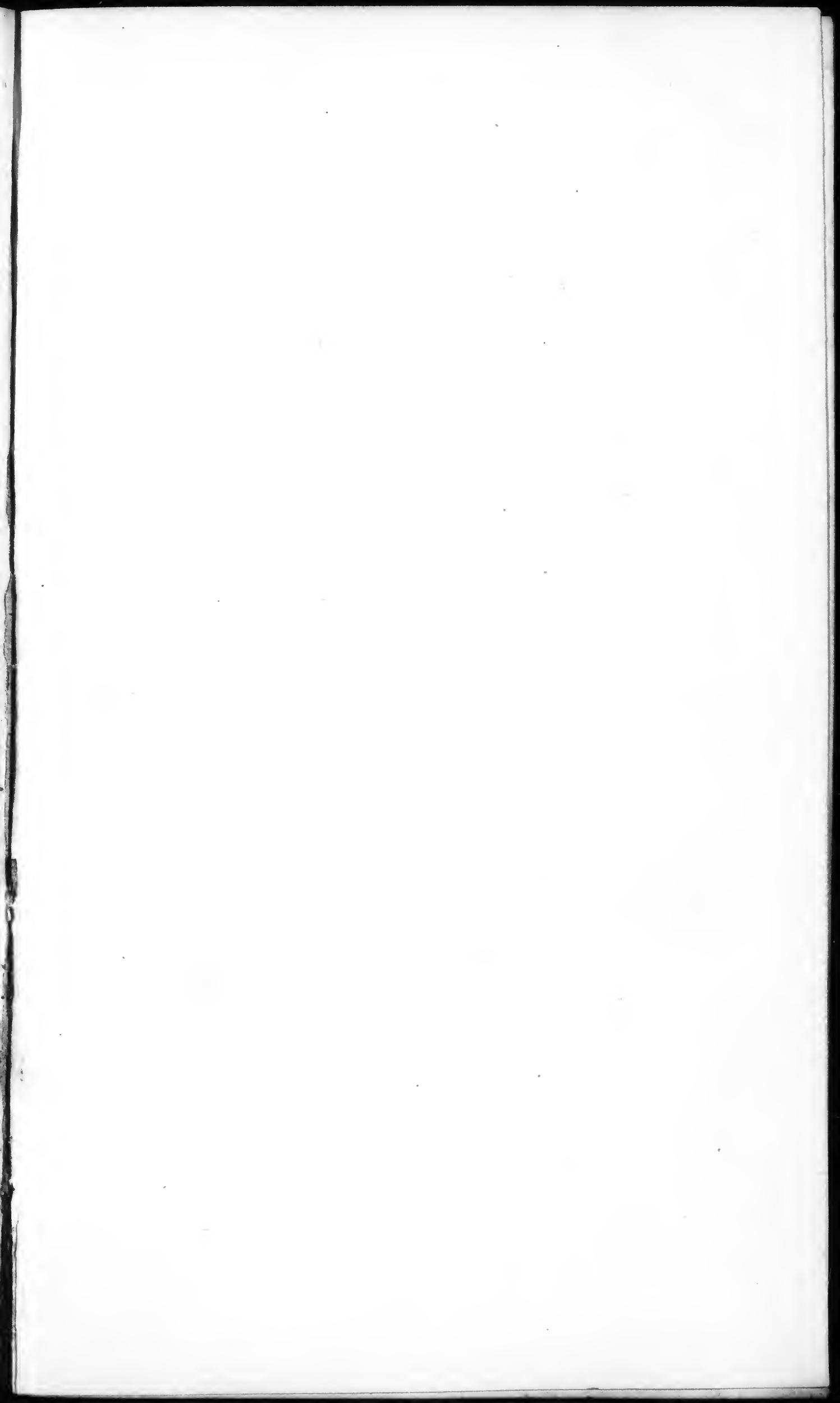
damn the whole world ; yet this is my mercy, that I abhor them, yea, they are as *hell* to me.—It is light, that discovers darkness ; then I will praise my Lord; that he is pleased to shew me what is in my heart. I am afraid many times, lest I should deceive my soul at last. I beg to have this fear increased in me, that it may keep my soul *awake* !

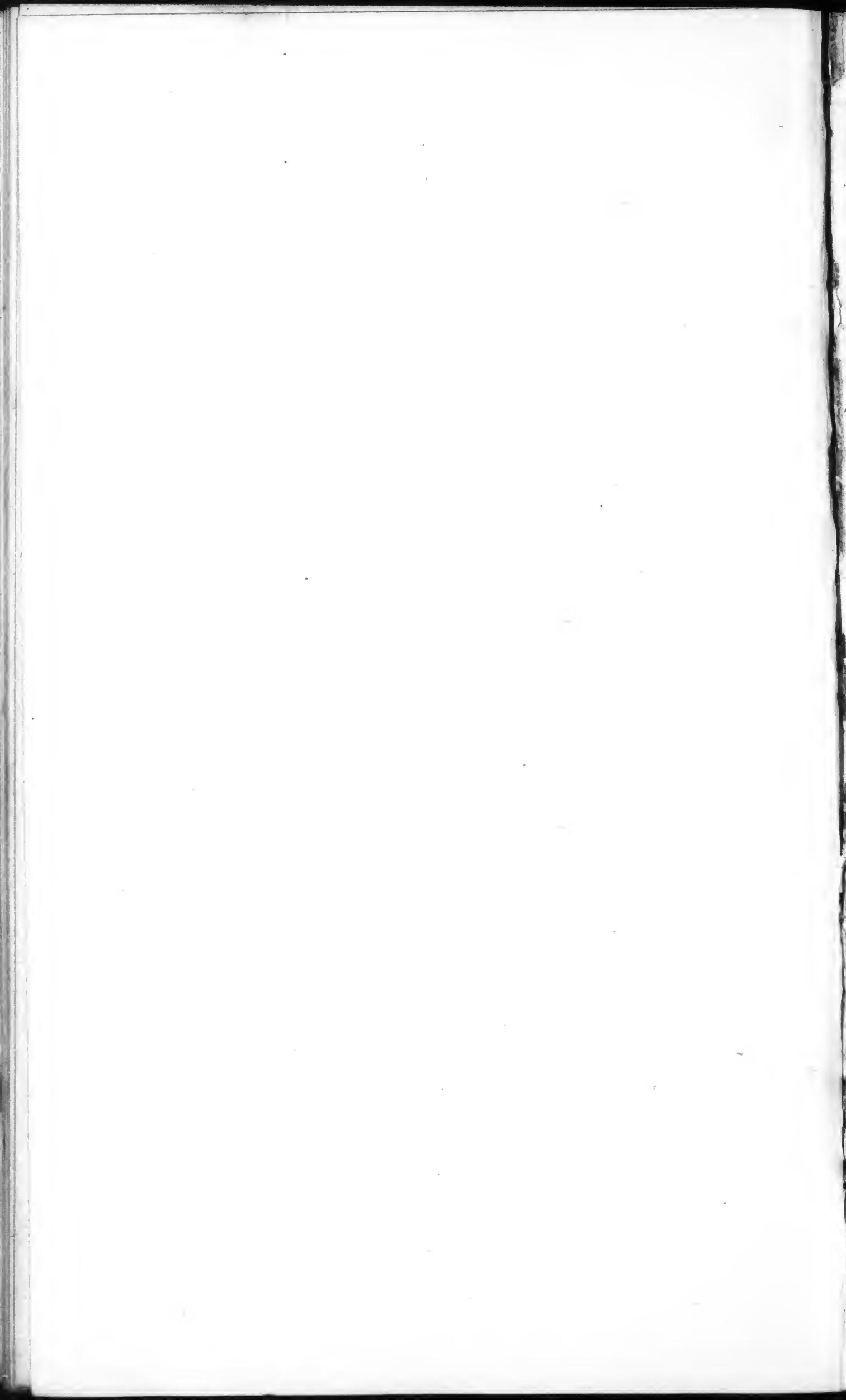
November 17. “ Last night I had such a diabolical *dream*, as distressed me. Oh, when will this war of sin cease ? it is not *age* that destroys sin ; no, but *grace alone* can and will destroy the cursed seed of the serpent, which I hate. Appear, O Lord, and for thy servant fight ! ”—

December 4. “ This evening my band met ; I had found my mind all day in a waiting frame, begging of God to give me a token of his will concerning our meeting. My prayer was heard, and, blessed be God, he answered it to the joy of all our hearts. May we never lose the sense of it, but walk in the strength of that meat many days ! ”

Dec. 22. “ My sensible delights are not lasting, though desirable. I am called to live by faith ; to rest on the promises of God, which *are yea and amen in Christ Jesus*. But, I find it hard work sometimes, to trust without sense or sight. Oh, what a monster is unbelief ! indeed, my soul groans under its weight—when shall this war be over ?

“ Wait thou *his* time ; so shall thy night
Soon end in joyous day.”





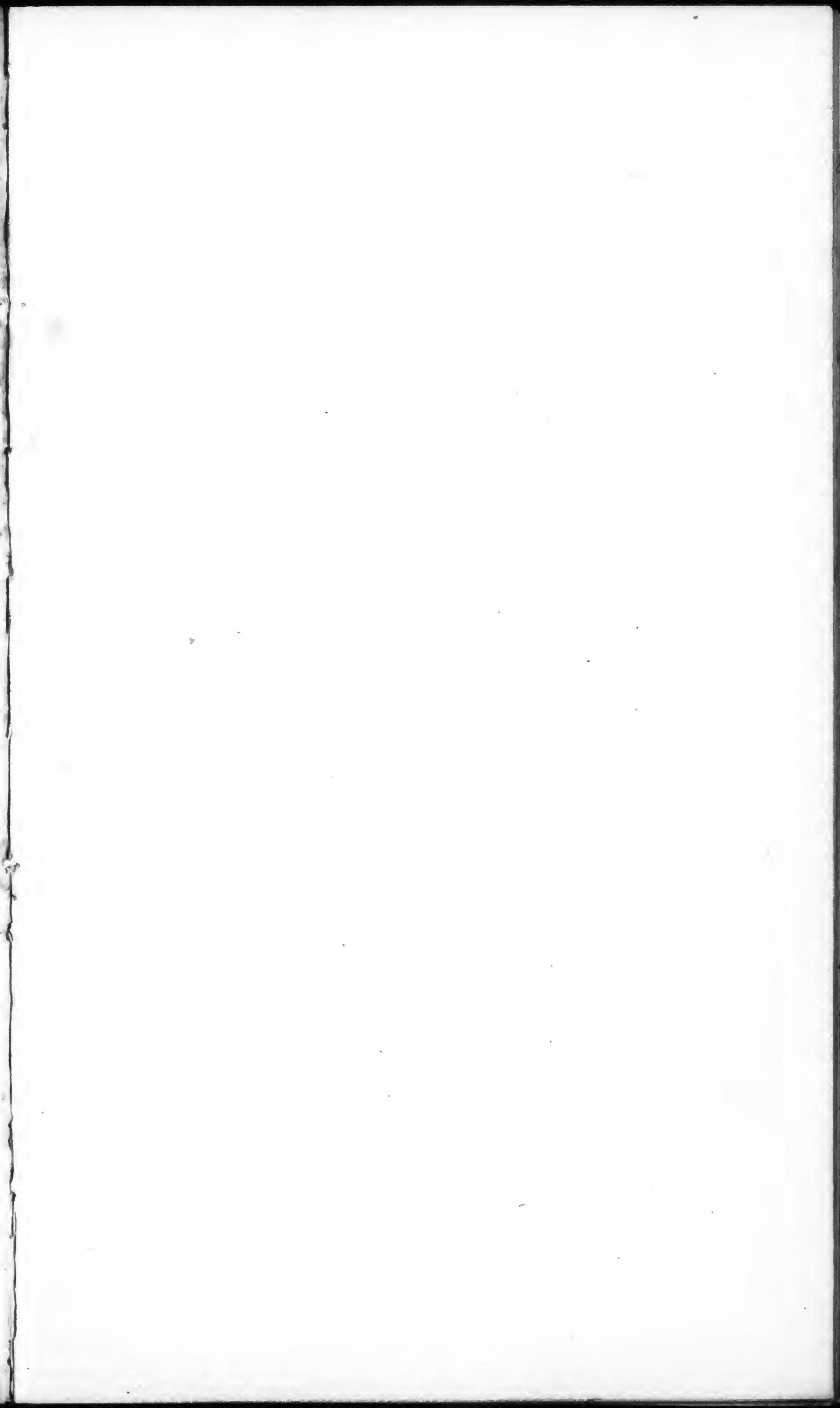
1794, Jan. 6. "It being Lord's Supper-day, and the first Sabbath in the New Year, my soul longed to go once more to partake of that sweet ordinance of bread and wine; in commemoration of my Lord's death for me a sinner. *He brought me into his banqueting house, and his banner over me was love: I sat under his shadow with delight, and his fruit was sweet unto my taste.* I had a precious view of my interest in the glorious Redeemer; in all he did and suffered for me. Yonder is the fulness, but this is a taste. I shall be with him, ever to behold his glory:

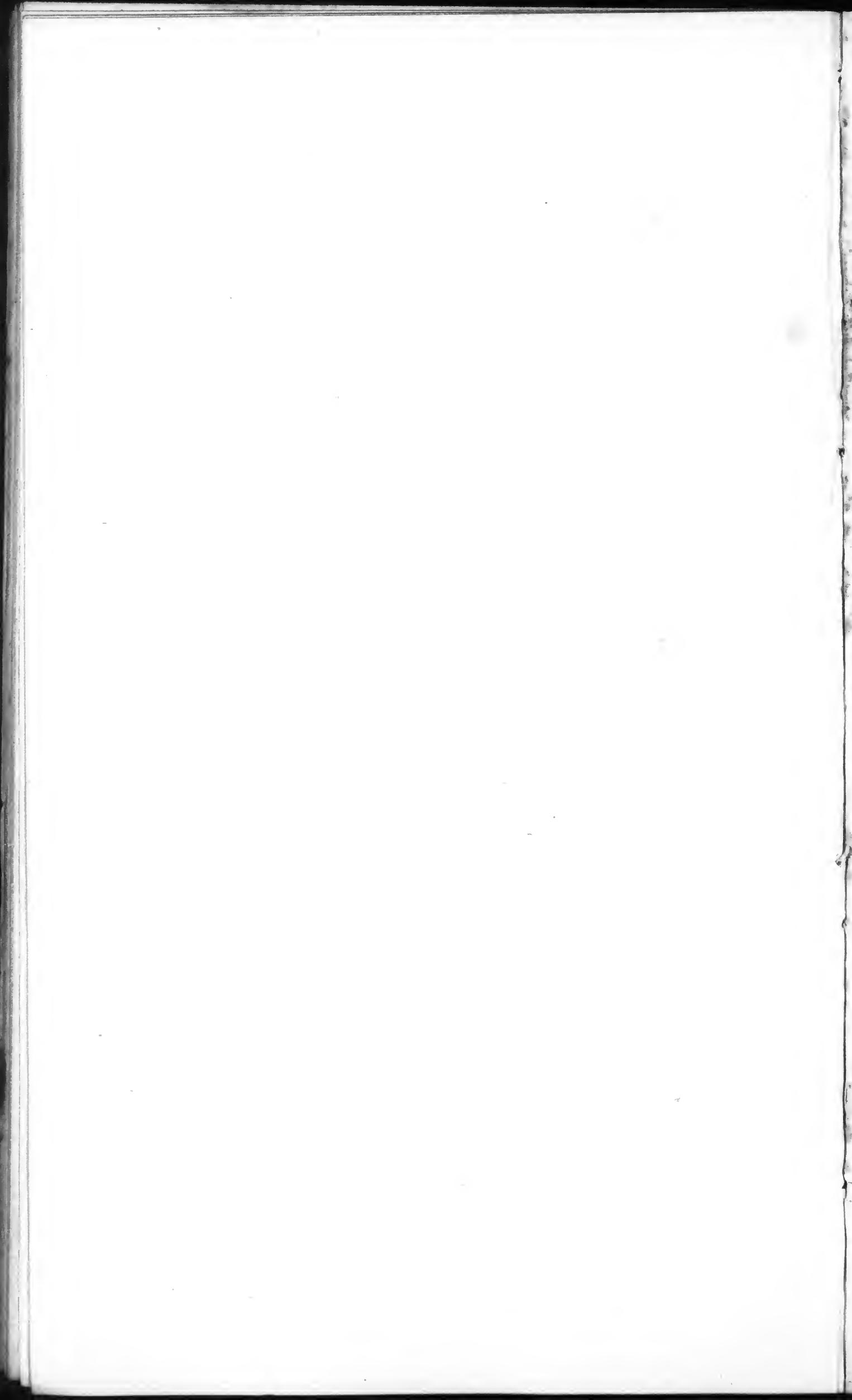
Jan. 22. "Last night my little company met; my heart was enlarged, as I endeavoured to shew them in what manner I believed Christ to be the sinner's hope for salvation; and how we are accepted in him; that it is not for any thing wrought in us by the Divine Spirit, nor for all the works we have done or can do; but for the righteousness of Christ alone *imputed* to us, without any thing in or of ourselves.—Doubtless, what the blessed Spirit worketh in us, is a qualification or meetness for heaven, but 'tis not this which gives us our title to it. God looks upon the believer *in Jesus*, as if he had not committed sin; but, *out of Christ*, if a soul were enriched with all grace, God would be to that soul a consuming fire. Our completeness is in Christ Jesus alone.—I fear, some build upon their *comforts*, instead of Christ, for

their salvation ! Do not, however, mistake me, and think I am speaking against comforts : far from it. I delight to feel the comforts of the Holy Ghost ; yea, there is no true Religion without them, less or more ; and perhaps I, the least of all the family of heaven, not worthy to be called a child of God, have tasted, and could say, as much as most of these sweets of Paradise ; but I forbear : Christ is All and in All to me."

Jan. 29. " This morning before I rose, I had a sweet visit from my Lord, to encourage me to go on my way. *He giveth songs in the night.* O my beloved Lord, thou knowest what I would say ; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than live in all the splendor of this vain delusive world. One drop of the love of God outweighs all worlds ; yea, (as Mrs. *Rowe* says) ' when I feel the love of God in my heart, I can *wink* the world into darkness.' — Then, do I *despise* the blessings of this world ? far from it. I can and do praise my God for all his good gifts, which are to help me on my journey ; yea, I cannot be sufficiently thankful to the Giver of all I enjoy : But, to have the heart glued to the world is misery, and a curse ; because the world fills all the heart, and shuts out God. Misery with a witness ! "

Feb. 3. " In family worship I found myself low and empty. It came to me, ' Will you praise God now you are so comfortless ? ' Before I could speak, an answer was given to Satan, ' She doth not fol-





low Christ for loaves and fishes.' This astonished me, and strengthens my belief, that every child of God has his *guardian angel* with him. Then, may I from henceforth watch more unto prayer, that I grieve not my gracious God, nor Guardian Spirit. O Lord, keep me that I sin not! Thou knowest, I would not follow thee for the loaves and fishes of thy *comforts*, though they delight my soul, when I enjoy them; but *comforts are not Jesus*. My dear Lord, thou art my delight, and all my salvation; my rock, my high tower, in whom alone I trust. Blessed be God for this day! I am made more sensible of God's love and care over me a sinner, than I have been, for a long season."

Feb. 19. "They say, the *French* are for invading us; whither shall we flee? there is only one place of safety; the name of our God is a strong tower, into which the righteous run, and are safe."

"There would I fly with eager haste,
And kiss the cross, and hold it fast."

Let us not distress ourselves before the time. Remember the prophet's servant. His master prayed, and God opened his eyes, and then he beheld the mountain full of horses and chariots round about. Is not Elisha's God the same to day? yes, and will be for ever, when heaven and earth are fled away. O Lord, give me that victorious faith, that removes every mountain and obstacle in my way to

Zion! It is not in the power of men to do what they would; then I desire to stand still and see thy salvation."

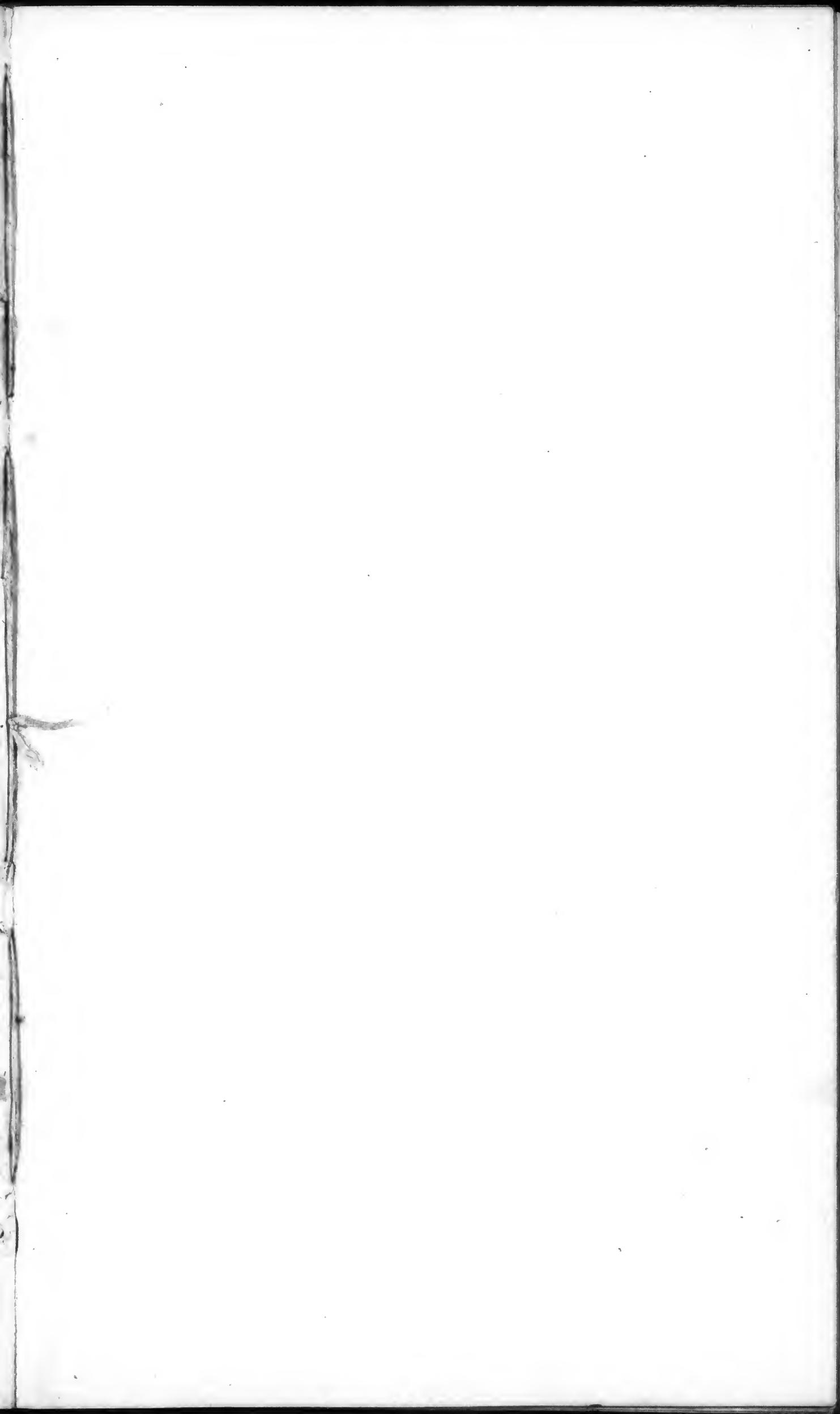
March 4. "Blessed be God, I found him present with me this morning; I find liberty within, from that oppression of spirit by unbelief, which I have so long groaned under; and my soul is pained to think how I have grieved the Spirit by listening to Satan, that grand enemy of God and man.

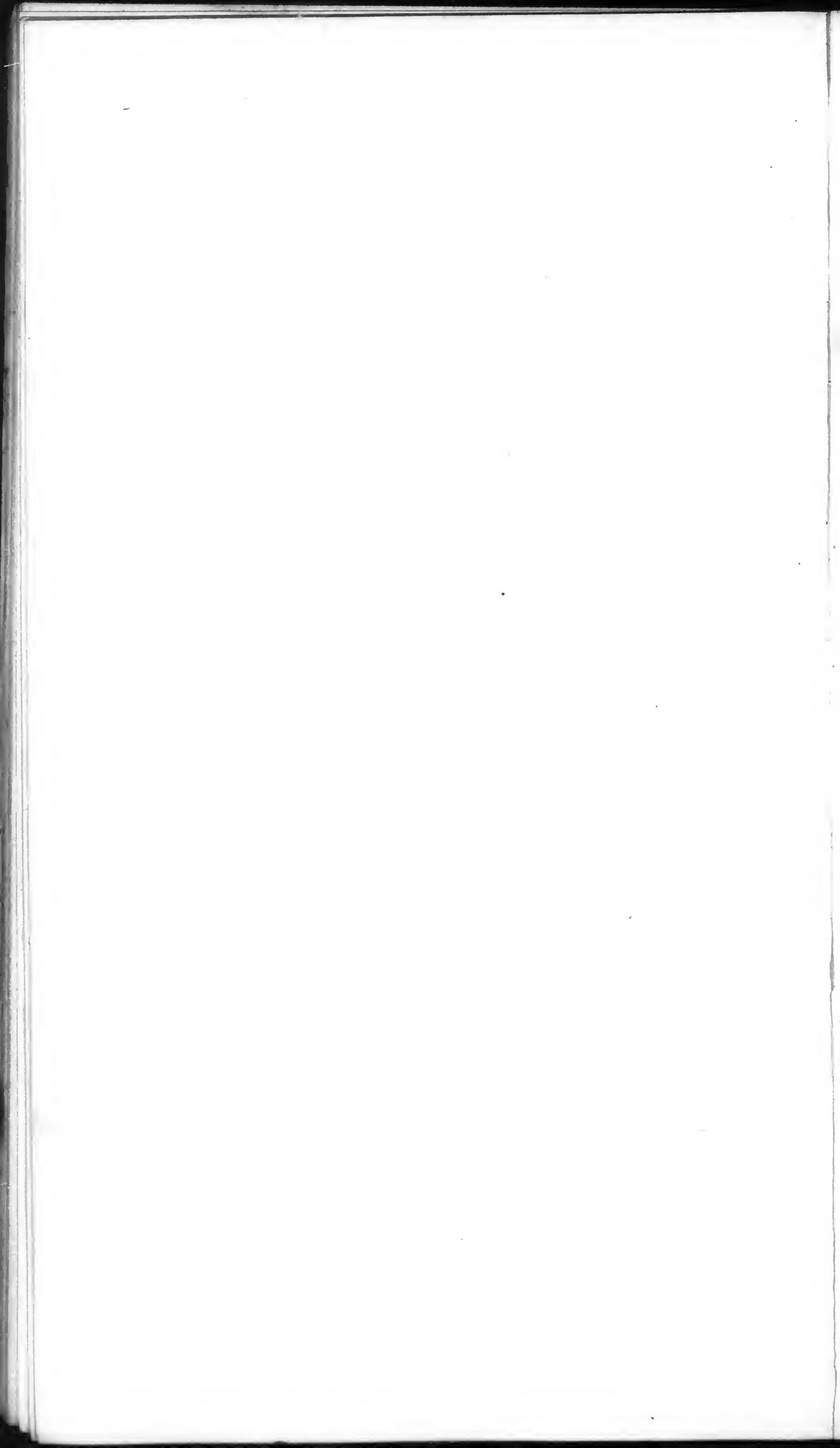
"O Lord, forgive my follies past,
And give me strength for days to come."

I believe and am persuaded, that many souls go mourning, through Satan's temptations and their own carnal reasonings, when they might go on their way rejoicing; I know this by sorrowful experience."

March 26. "I have too long reasoned with Satan on account of my unfaithfulness, I know it well, better than he can tell me; but it is all forgiven: yet, I dare not say, *my mountain standeth strong, I shall never be moved*; no, I know, without my Lord I am all weakness, but he holds me by the hand, and bids me not fear. On him alone is my dependance. I would as soon trust old Satan, as my own heart; I know it is the greatest enemy I have; then, O Lord, help me to watch over its motions!"

April 5. "Being poorly, I put the question to myself, 'What is it that I most desire?' my soul





answered, ‘to be happy in the sweet embraces of Jesus Christ—to find more of his mind in myself.’ Thou, Lord knowest,

My longing heart, it pants for thee ;
O burst these bonds, and set it free !”

April 20. Easter Sunday. “This morning, when I awoke, I found myself very low and empty, till I began to consider, ‘This is the day the Lord Jesus rose from the dead.’ My soul’s powers began to quicken by these verses ;

This is the day that Jesus rose,
Triumphant from the dead ;
Why should I keep my eyelids clos’d,
And waste my hours in bed ?

I have known the time, when I have been joining in the praises of my Lord with his people at *four o’clock* in the morning, and continued all the day, from one place of devotion to another, without faintness ; but ah, what am I now ? the Lord knoweth ; I hope in Zion’s road, but I move very slowly.”

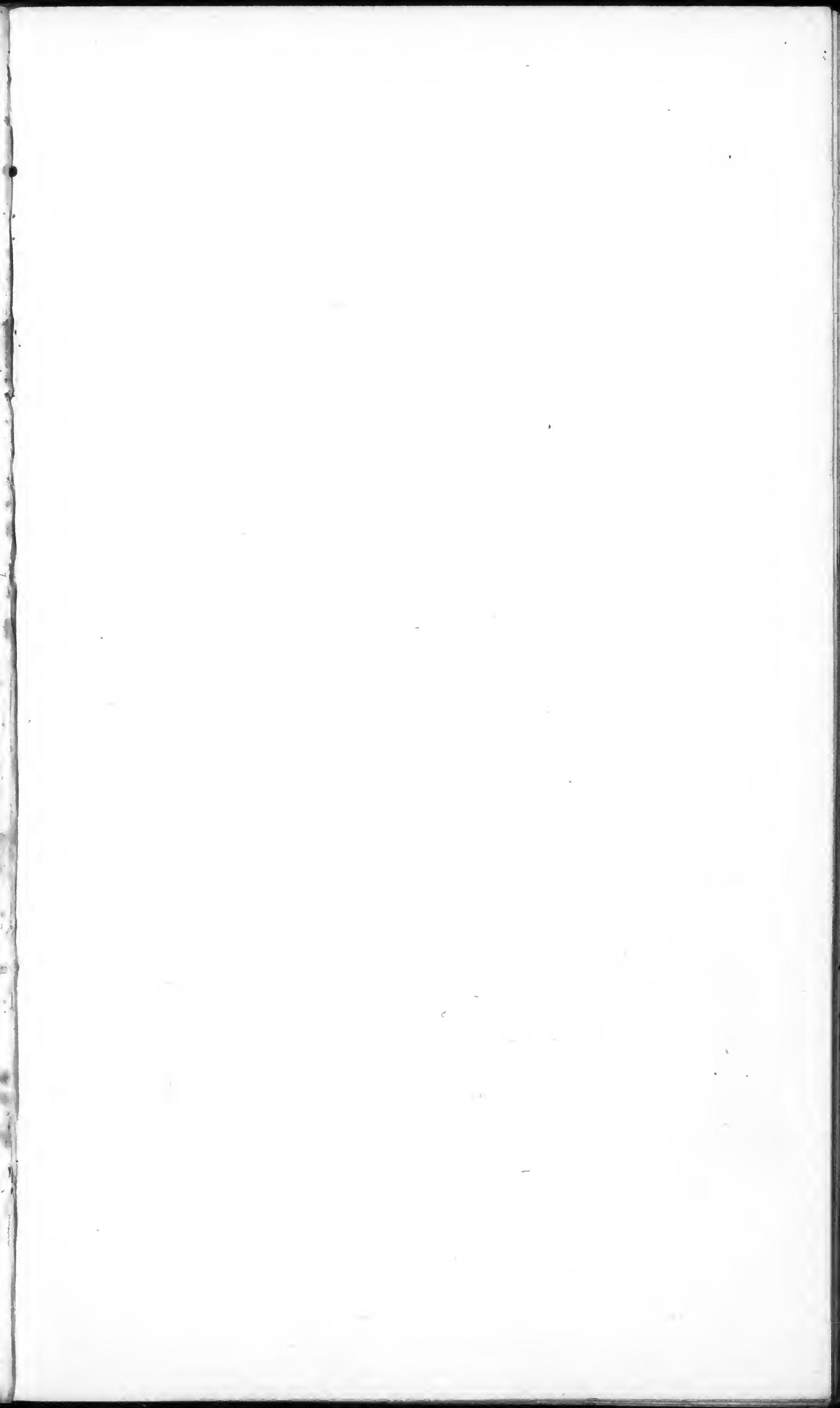
May 1. “Reading *Bennet’s Christian Oratory*, or Meditations on various Subjects, gave me great pleasure. I groan, and have done long for that reverence which is due to God in all places. Oh for the sense of his presence, when I speak or think or act ! I would have my eye fixed on him in all places. Oh could I see *him*, as he seeth me ! I have had such a sense of his majesty in all my

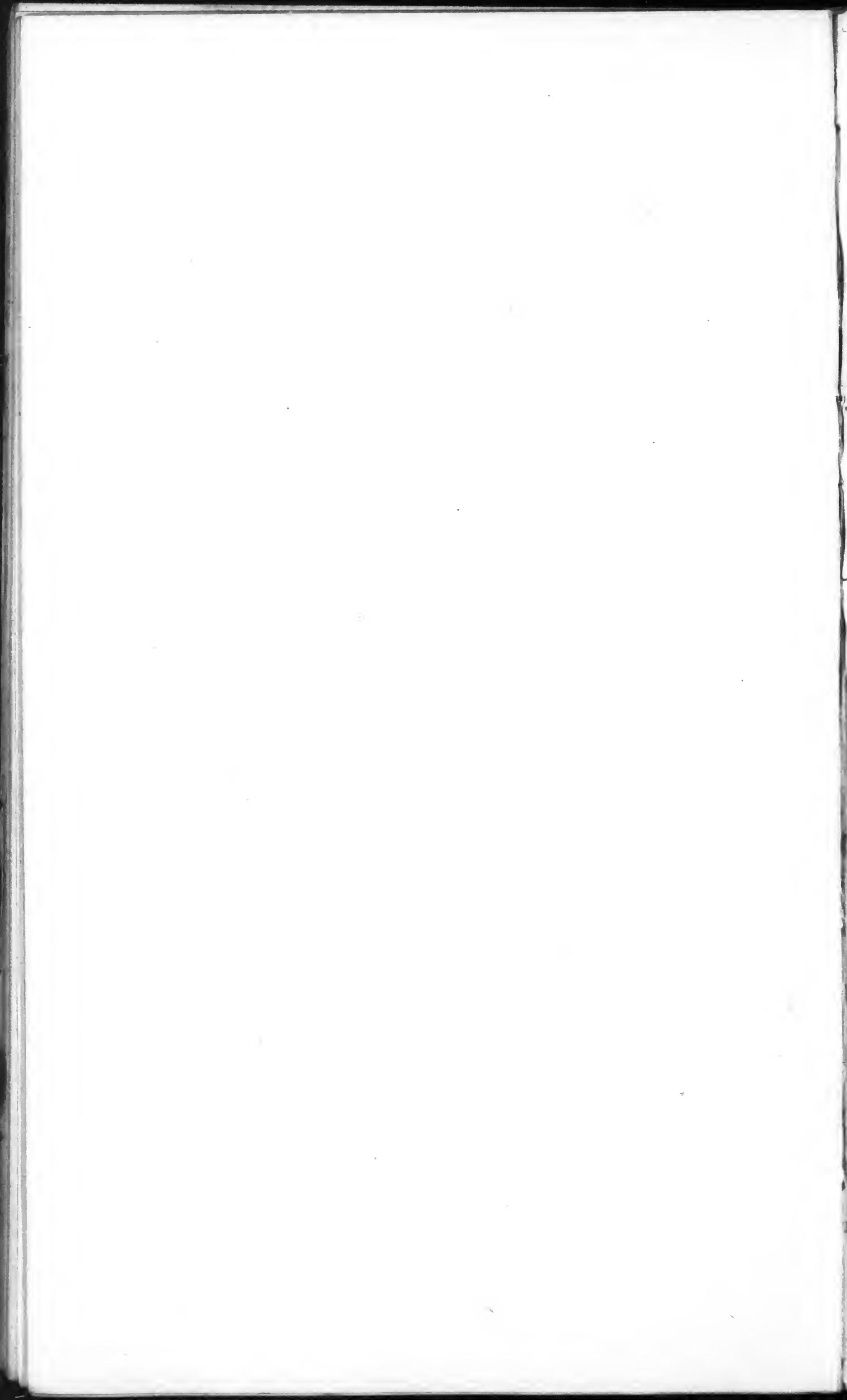
ways, as I cannot express ; this I want now. O Lord, fill me with that filial fear, that I may glorify thee continually !”

May 24. “This day 35 years, my dear husband took his flight to the regions of Glory. How have we travelled and conversed about the glorious *Immanuel*, whom he now beholds without a veil ! but I am yet upon this sea of fire and glass ; and what may be in my way to Zion I know not, neither would I take any anxious thought ; but give up myself to God’s disposal. I lean upon him, who is Almighty. He hath said, *I am with thee, to help thee, worm Jacob* ; therefore I need not fear.

“ My present help in trouble,
My soul’s eternal lover ;
Beneath thy shade, I’ll hide my head,
Till all the storm be over.”

June 2. “The promises and faithfulness of God ought to be preached, to strengthen his children, that they may walk steadily on their way. The everlasting love of God will enable souls to endure hardship, if they believe the crown and prize are sure before them ; *their anchor being cast within the veil, sure and steadfast.* If Jesus be in the ship it cannot be lost. He will awake, and rebuke the storm. Christians of riper age ought to have *their* proper food, and not to be starved because of *babes* ; let these have their milk—they ought—and be content.”





July 26. "For some time I have been in such a state of mind, as I cannot account for; I have felt myself so empty of God and all that is divine, that I could not lift up my heart to him, nor think of my dearest Lord, that has been so gracious and precious to my soul years past. The enemy pushed hard at me, to give up my hope; but I durst not. Those words, *cast not away your confidence*, were a help to me; but indeed, I should have given up all, if Jesus my Lord had not come in to my help, and rescued me. I found, in an instant, a determination spring up in my soul, that, come what will, I will cast my soul and all my sins upon the Lamb that was slain. I am not yet set at liberty, as my soul desires, but I believe I shall be. O Lord, come quickly to thy Temple! What have I to fear? The Judge is my friend; he will not plead *against* me with his great power, no, but *for* me; on him I rely."

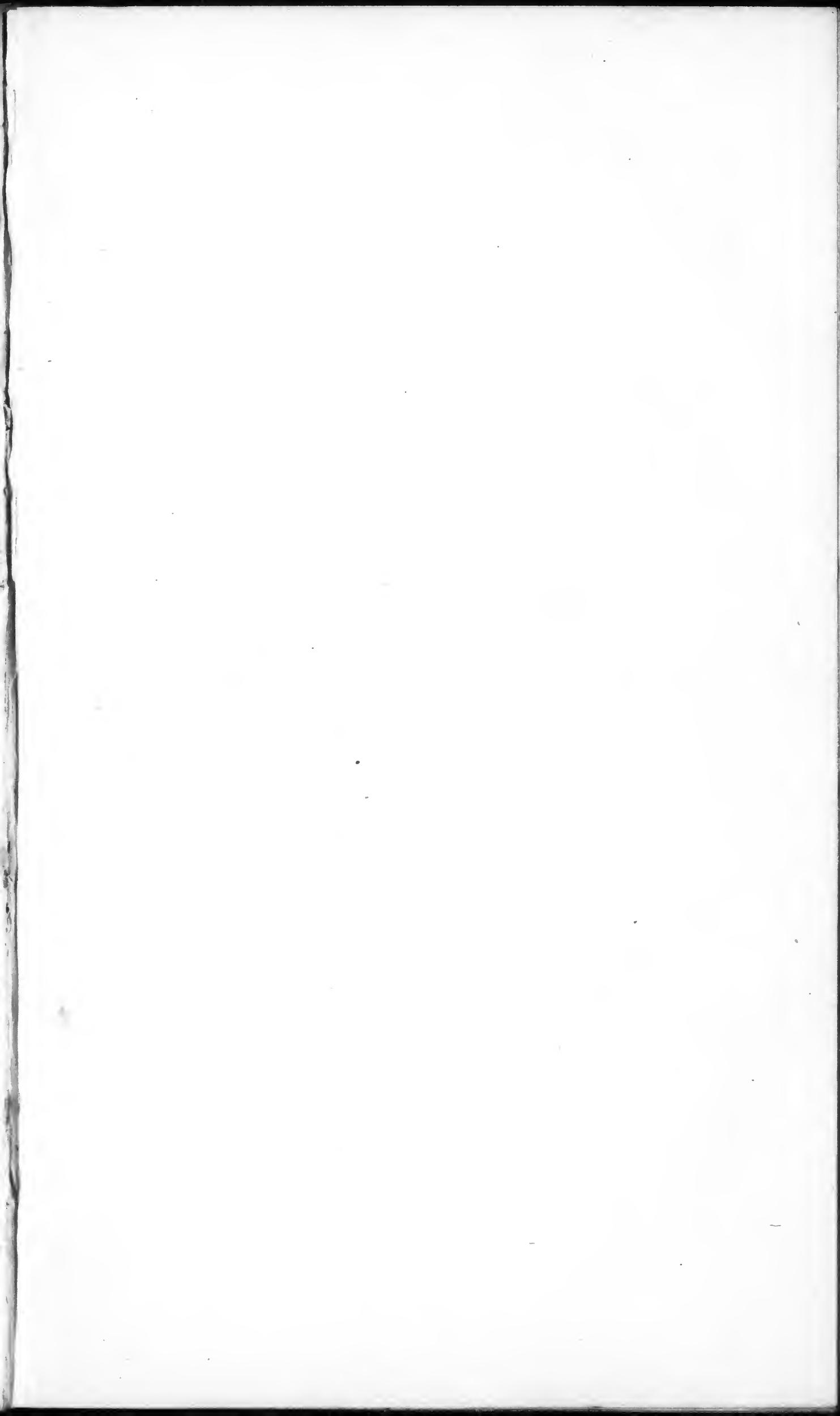
August 18. "I find power at all times to encourage others, but am myself often discouraged: So much of unbelief and carnal reasoning eats up my strength. Oh that they might have no more place in me! God only knows what I feel. Indeed, I should faint, if I did not wait in expectation that God will come to my deliverance. Satan tells me, I have been so unfaithful to the grace of God, that I shall never be happy any more; but I know he is a liar. Oh, how do I long to taste that precious love of God in Christ Jesus! I believe I shall; for God is true, he changeth not. 'Oh, says Satan,

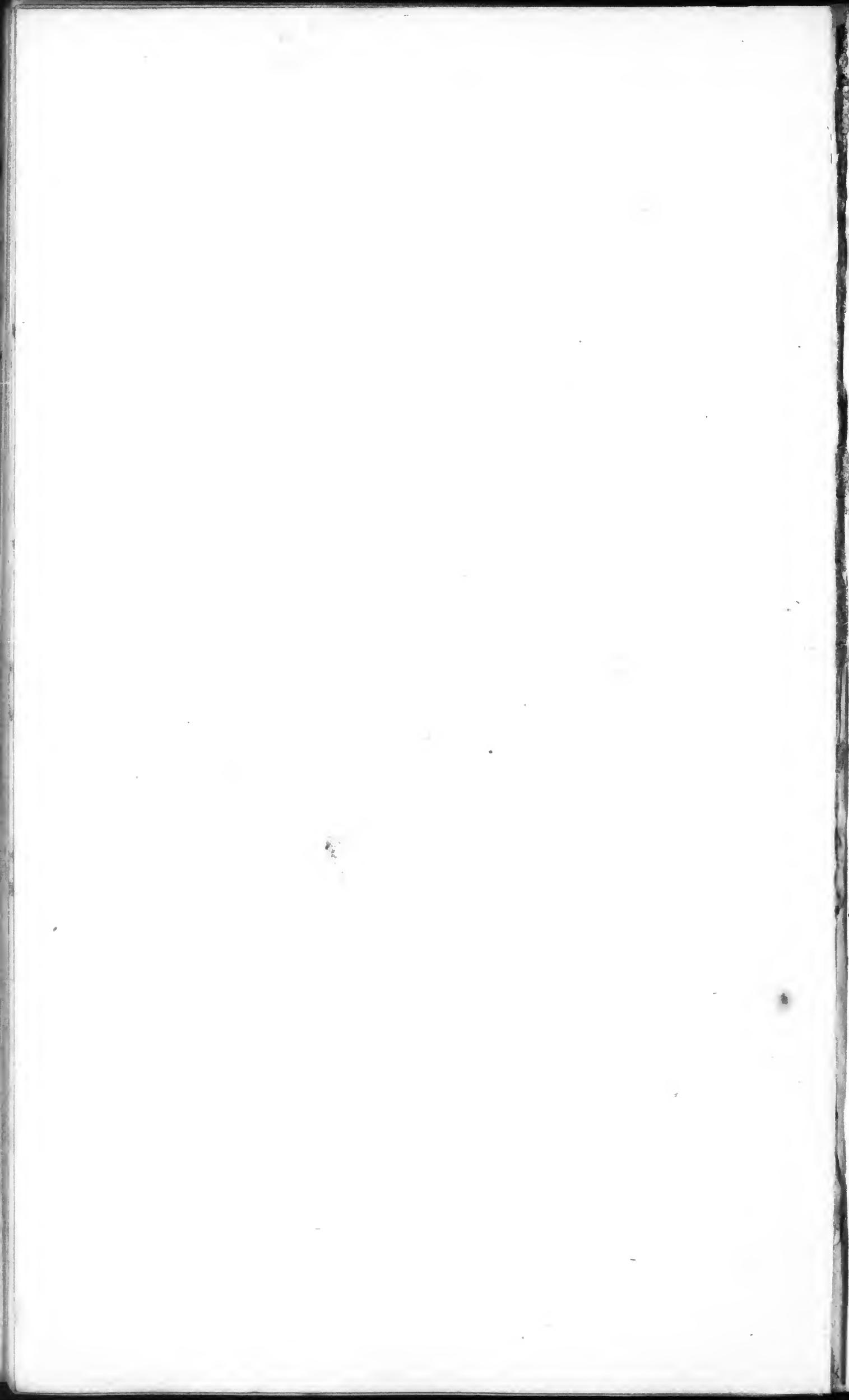
you are deceived, all your experience may be imagination.' 'Tis well he puts in, *may be* ;' that to me denotes his diffidence, which encourages me to hold fast my confidence; and, in the strength of my God, I will hope to the end."

August 23. "This morning I awoke with a sense of a sin, which I had committed when very young; and that was, *I tempted a girl to say bad words.* Whether the Lord brought it to my remembrance, because I had not repented enough for it; or Satan brought it to mind, with a view to bring me under guilt, and distress me with it, I cannot say: but it had this effect, to drive me to God in prayer; and, I bless God, I find peace through the *blood of sprinkling*, which speaks me justified."

September 26. "It is easy to talk of death at a distance; but it is awful to look him in the face, without an advocate. O dreadful! But, to believe and know that Jesus lives for *me*, to plead my cause before his Father's throne, disarms him of all his terrors. In my late illness, the Lord kept the enemy at a distance, that I felt no fear of death; I neither desired life nor death, but that the will of God should be done in me. I had my answer, as in times past, that I should not die *now*. What I am spared for, is best known to him, that can divide the seas, and make the mountains fall.

" This awful God is mine,
My Father and my love;
He will send down his heavenly powers
To carry me above."





October 25. "Oh, what reason have I to be thankful! God is better to me than my fears; he hath calmed the enemy; perhaps only for a season. It behoves me to watch. O Lord, give me power, for I have no might to stand against Satan. Of myself I can do nothing; but through Christ strengthening me I can do all things. I am ashamed before God for my distrust. How oft has he delivered me? times out of number. If I had not *one sin more*, this cursed sin of *unbelief* might send me to the deepest hell.

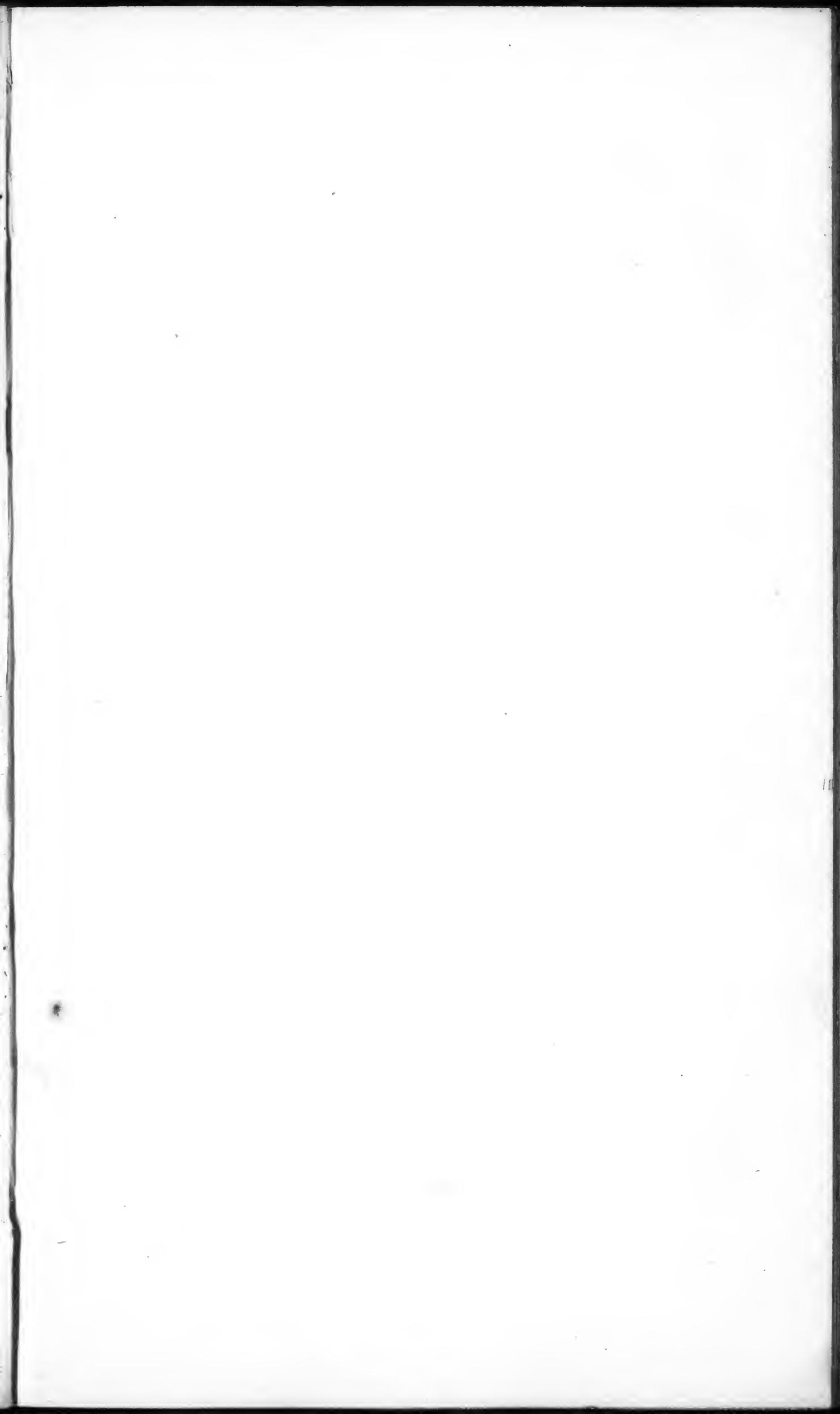
"But Jesus blood, thro' earth and skies;
Mercy, free, boundless mercy cries."

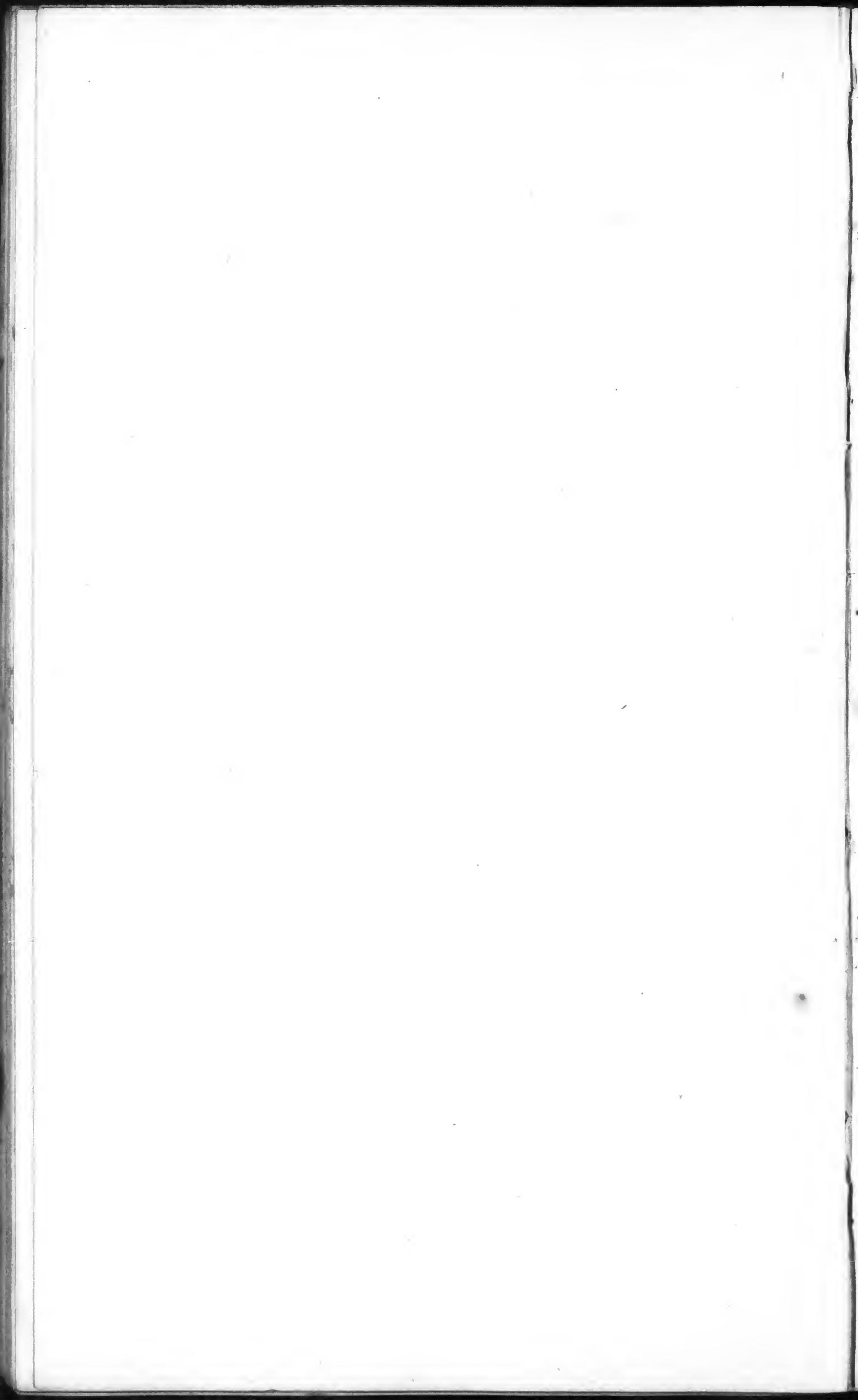
November 9. "The people are going to preaching at _____; my heart goes with them though I am confined. Well, I am the Lord's *prisoner of hope*; that is my comfort. It will not be always so. The day of my final deliverance draweth near, when I shall join the church triumphant above. Let me wait all the days of my appointed time, till my change come. I have had glorious seasons in my Lord's vineyard; then let me not murmur. O my gracious God, I have great reason to be thankful: Thou hast heaped loads of blessings upon me, more than I can here speak."

Nov. 12. "I fear great troubles are hastening; I almost see them at the door. When I consider what God has done for this nation in times past, and what returns we have made him, my mouth is

stopped, I dare not pray as I would. I well remember, in the year 1745, being then at *Newcastle-upon-Tyne*, before the least appearance of disturbance in *Scotland*, my soul mourned day and night; I was always in trouble, but could not tell for what. Mr. *Charles Wesley* was there for some time. When he preached his farewell-sermon, he said, ‘If I am a messenger of God, to preach the Gospel unto you, (mark what I say) *Before you see my face again, you will have the MAN ON THE RED HORSE, and the MAN ON THE PALE HORSE.*’ When he spoke these words, the whole auditory trembled. I myself was there, and felt the mighty power of God. And it was not long ere we experienced the truth of his message: We had both **WAR** and **DEATH** in abundance.”

1795, Sept. 5. “I find my clay cottage begins to totter; the Lord takes me down very gently. I bless his holy name, I enjoy, in a measure, all my limbs and senses; I would use them to his glory, for which end he gave them to me. So far as I know my heart, I am loose from the sordid cares of this world; as to its riches, I want them not; neither its pleasures, nor honours—I despise them. If I love the world, the love of God is not in me. Nothing short of God himself can or shall satisfy my soul; I would be as a weaned child to all things below the skies. Lord Jesus, I would die, to see thy face; it will not be long: Yet, I would not die one moment before it is thy pleasure: Thou-





knowest, that, living and dying, this is my one desire, to glorify thee."

Sept. 26. "For this week past I have found myself very low, both in body and mind, yet in some degree happy; believing all things shall end well. *The foundation of God standeth sure, the Lord knoweth them that are his.* I find my comforts often vary, yea, they are in several states in one day; but God never changeth. I can pity poor souls, that are ready, upon every slight temptation, to cast away their confidence, saying, *I have deceived myself:* This has been my own case in years past. Blessed be God who has taught me better.

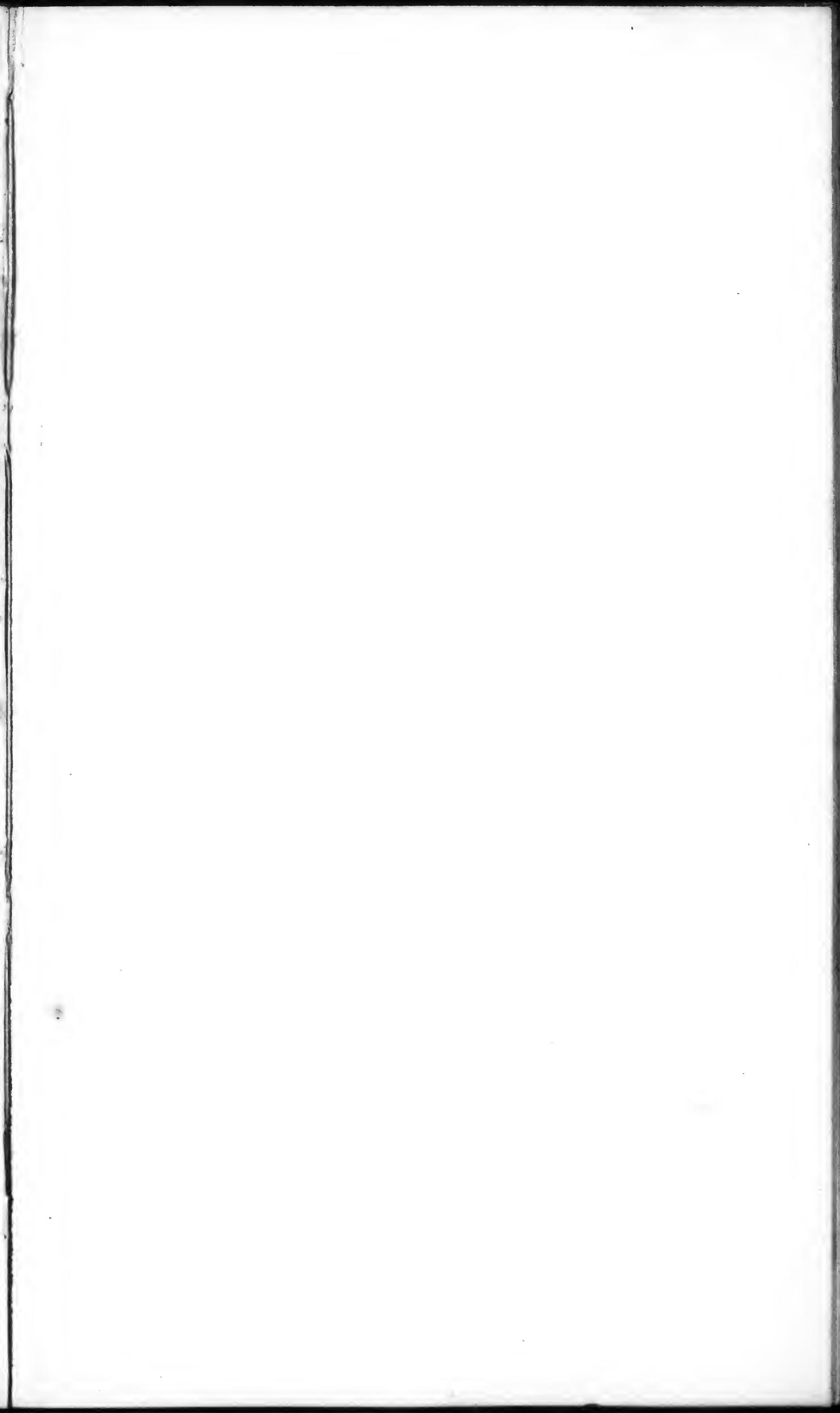
"In him I trust, that stands between
The Father's wrath and me."

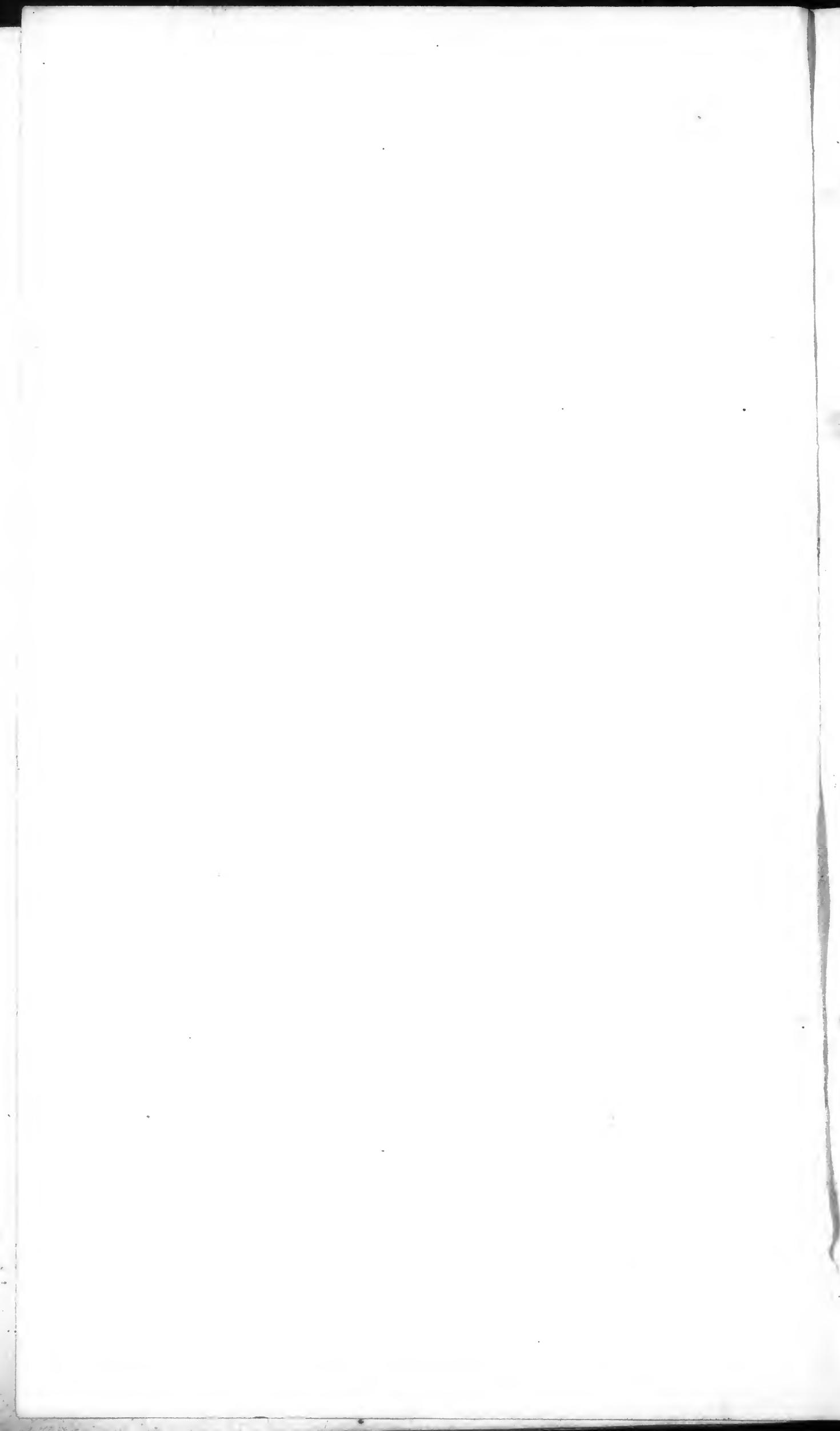
October 14. "Being poorly for some time I have not noted what I should, but have lately found great conflicts in my soul with Satan and unbelief. I have been, as if all the infernal powers were risen up against me; I could believe nothing in God's word; tongue cannot express the anguish I felt under this: yet in the midst of all I found a determination, if I perished, to perish at the feet of Christ. I have been pestered with all kinds of abominable suggestions, which my soul abhors. O thou unclean spirit, blush for thy malice against thy Maker, and us poor creatures; but it will all fall upon thy head at last."

Oct. 15. "I can sing of mercy and judgment. This morning the Lord was graciously pleased to take off my sackcloth, and gird me with gladness. Darkness is fled away, and again the light shineth. *I know that my Redeemer liveth,* and will be *the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.*

Oct. 23. "Carnal reasoning is the enemy of my peace. If I could always believe, I should always be happy: Why should I not? If I have reason to believe God hath spoken peace to my soul, *he changeth not;* he doth not give as the world giveth, to take again; no, he bids me *hold fast my confidence;* *let no man take thy crown.* If I can appeal to God, that I hate sin, within and without; and if I can say, without hypocrisy, that I would rather die than sin, and grieve my Lord; (though, I fear, I do many times grieve him, ignorantly) notwithstanding all I feel within contrary to his nature, if I find an abhorrence of it, I believe it is not imputed to me.

November 28. "Last night I was full of tossings, with doleful dreams, such as my soul hateth. *My own heart sheweth unto me the wickedness of the people.* I find few that are willing to confess the depravity of their nature; but, let them cover it as they will, their heart is *a cage of unclean birds;* yea, a *nest of vipers,* that would sting us to death eternal, if the blood of Christ did not cleanse from all sin. But, blessed be God, if that is applied, it will quench all the flames of hell; on that



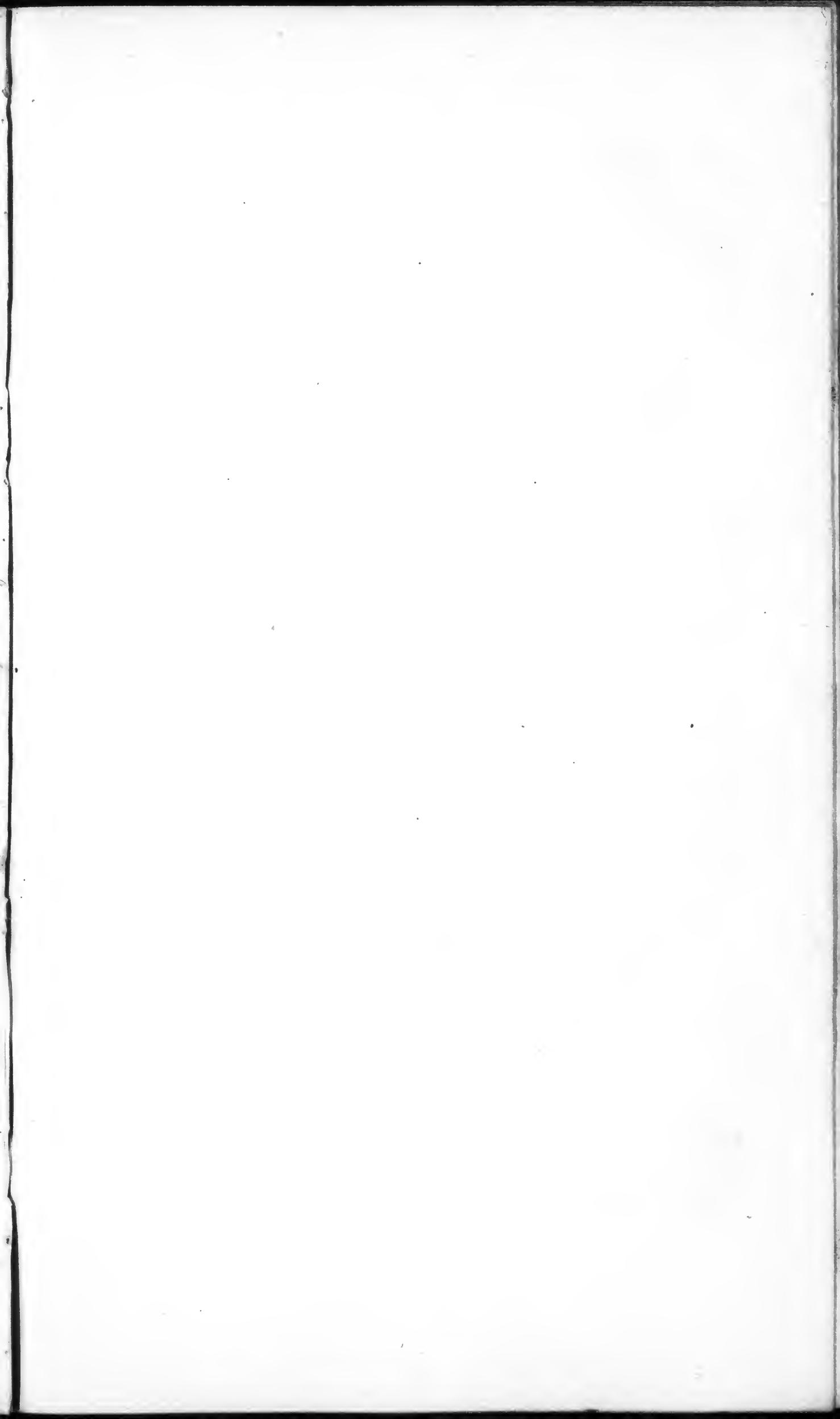


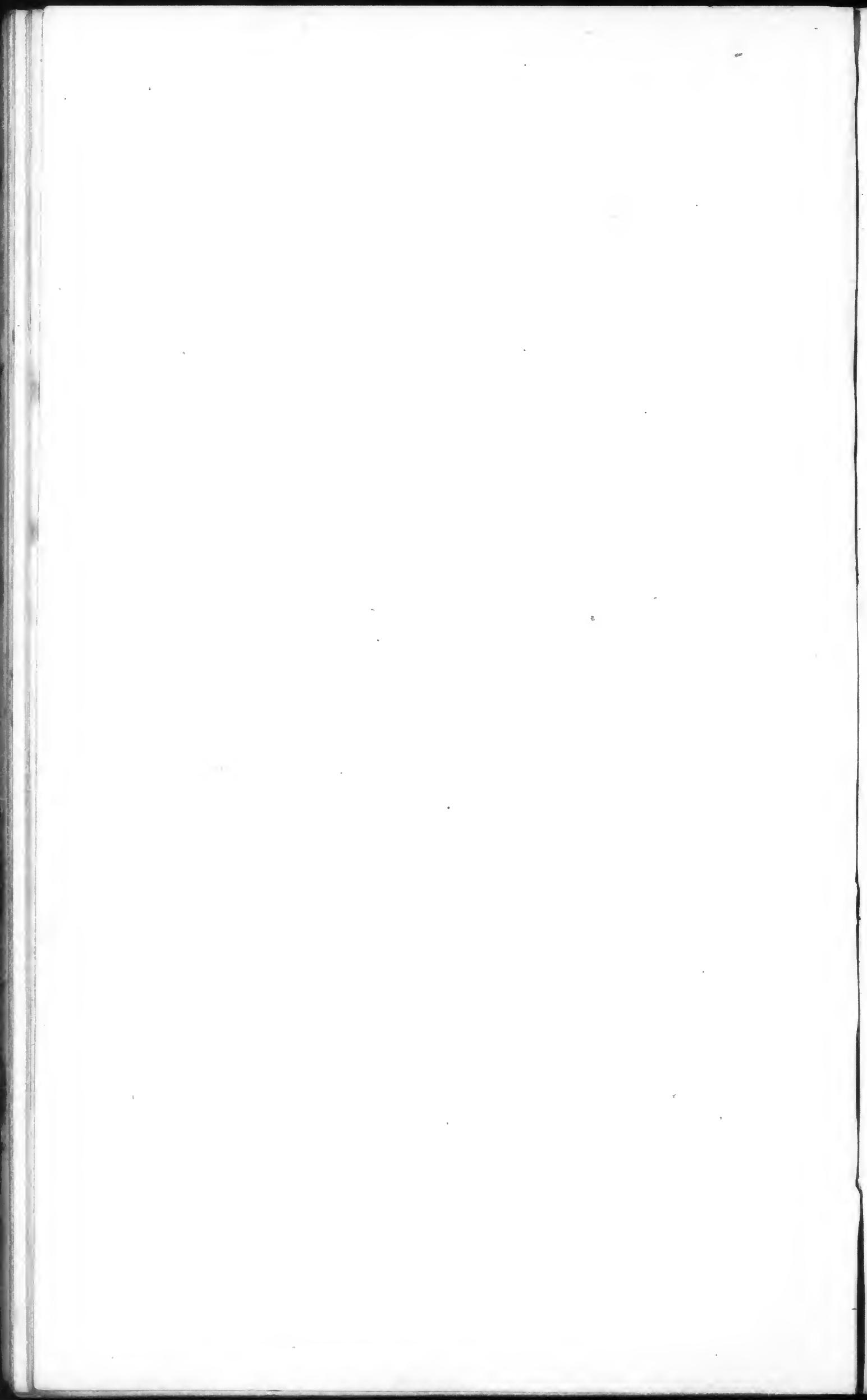
alone I rely, and all the infernal crew shall not, cannot drive me thence. The Christian's life is justly called a *warfare*, uphill and down; I find my frames often changing; one hour I am full of peace and comfort, the next I am as stripped and emptied, as if I knew nothing of heavenly things: I cannot assign the reason of this; but I believe it is the way God is pleased to take, to make us sensible that all our help is from him. We are proud haughty sinners; we would be thought something, when indeed we are vile, and worse than nothing. It is a wonder, the Lord doth not cast us out of his sight."

1796, January 20. "It was our prayer meeting this morning. The maid begged I would not get up, being so poorly; but I durst not make it an excuse. I rose, weak as I was; and I would not for the world have lain in my bed. My soul was doubly blessed. The Lord was with us in truth, and I believe not one soul went away empty. How should I have regretted, and my heart have smote me, if I had lain in bed, when I consider how my dear Lord staid whole nights on the mount, exposed to the open air, praying for such a hell-deserving sinner. Oh, I hate excuses, both in myself and others! We shall repent, when we arrive at home, and be confounded, to think how sluggish and lukewarm we were here in his service. If there can be mourning in heaven, I shall lament my unfaithfulness and shortcomings to eternity."

March 3. "I dare not deny the *feelings* of the Spirit's work upon the soul; I am bound to confess, that I have had many manifestations of the love and favour of God to my soul, yea, more than I can or dare mention; for the workings of the Spirit are better felt than expressed.—How that Divine Agent worketh in us, we cannot tell; but that he doth, we are assured by the fruit we bring forth, which is holiness to the Lord. If our works are not holy, we are deceived. Therefore we are to try the spirits by the word of God; that is the standard we must measure ourselves by; we must *come up to it*, and not bring *the word down to us*. I would ask any one, that denies the feelings of inward religion, Do not we feel, when our souls are *in trouble*? Yes, certainly. Then, do we not feel, when that trouble is *taken away*? and what took it away? I answer for myself, the Spirit of God, the Divine Comforter; none else can heal a wounded conscience. There is no true religion *without feeling*. Do I not know, when I feel my heart *hard*? yes, to my great grief; and, do I not know, when that hardness of heart is *removed*? yes, verily, to the great joy of my soul: and what removes it, but the love of God shed abroad in my heart by the Holy Ghost given unto me!"

March 20. "I often think of a person, that was under disgrace with his king: He wanted to obtain pardon and reconciliation, but did not know how to come at his Majesty. He understood, if





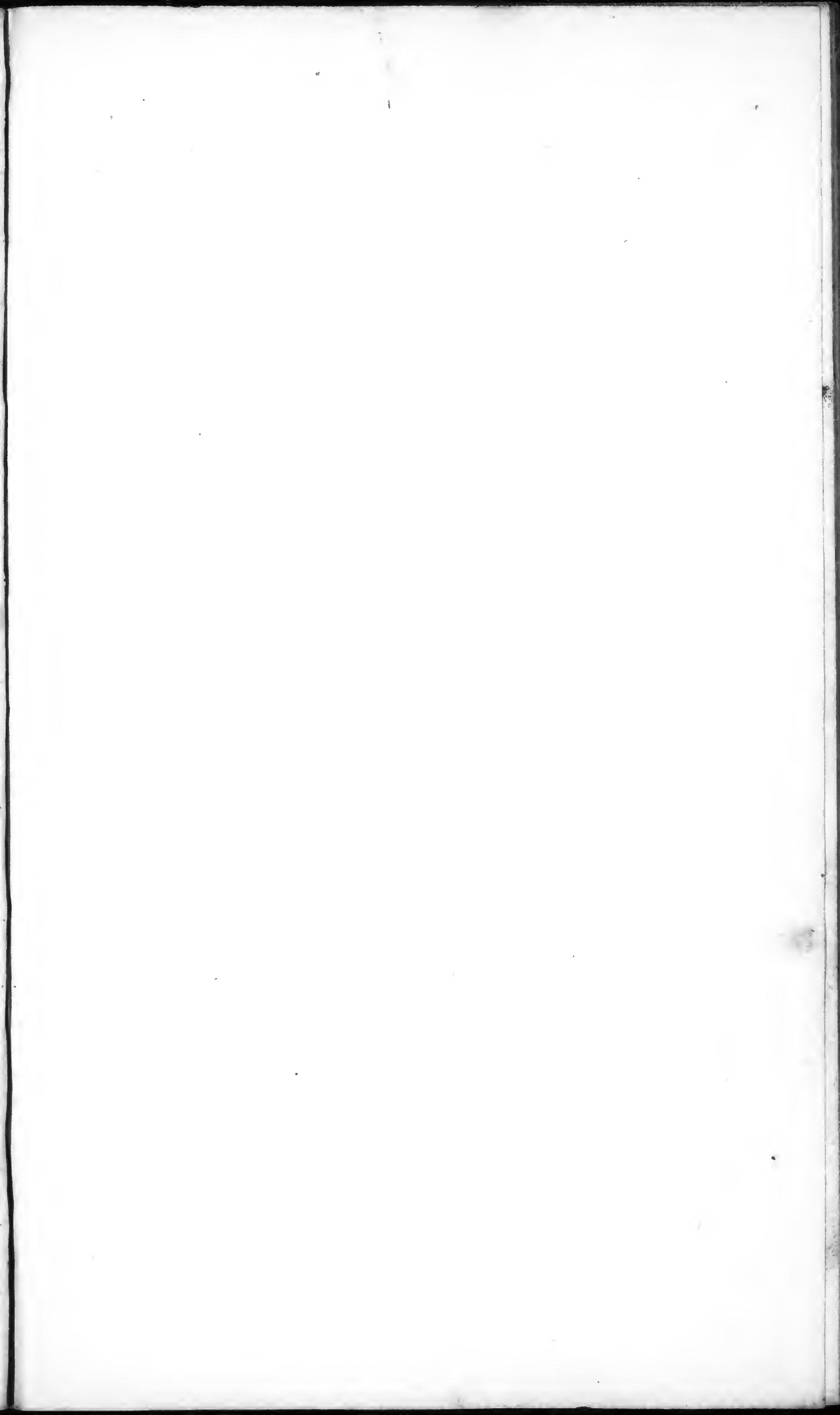
he could get the young *Prince*, and present him first, he would find acceptance: Accordingly, he took the first opportunity he could to lay hold of the young prince, and approached his offended King, with the child in his arms; which when his Majesty saw, he could not refuse, but granted him both pardon and reconciliation, with complacency and delight.—This is what we poor sinners must do; We must take the child *Jesus* in the arms of our faith, and present him to our great King. Without this prince of peace we shall find no favour; for God out of Christ is a *Consuming fire*; but in Jesus all is peace.”

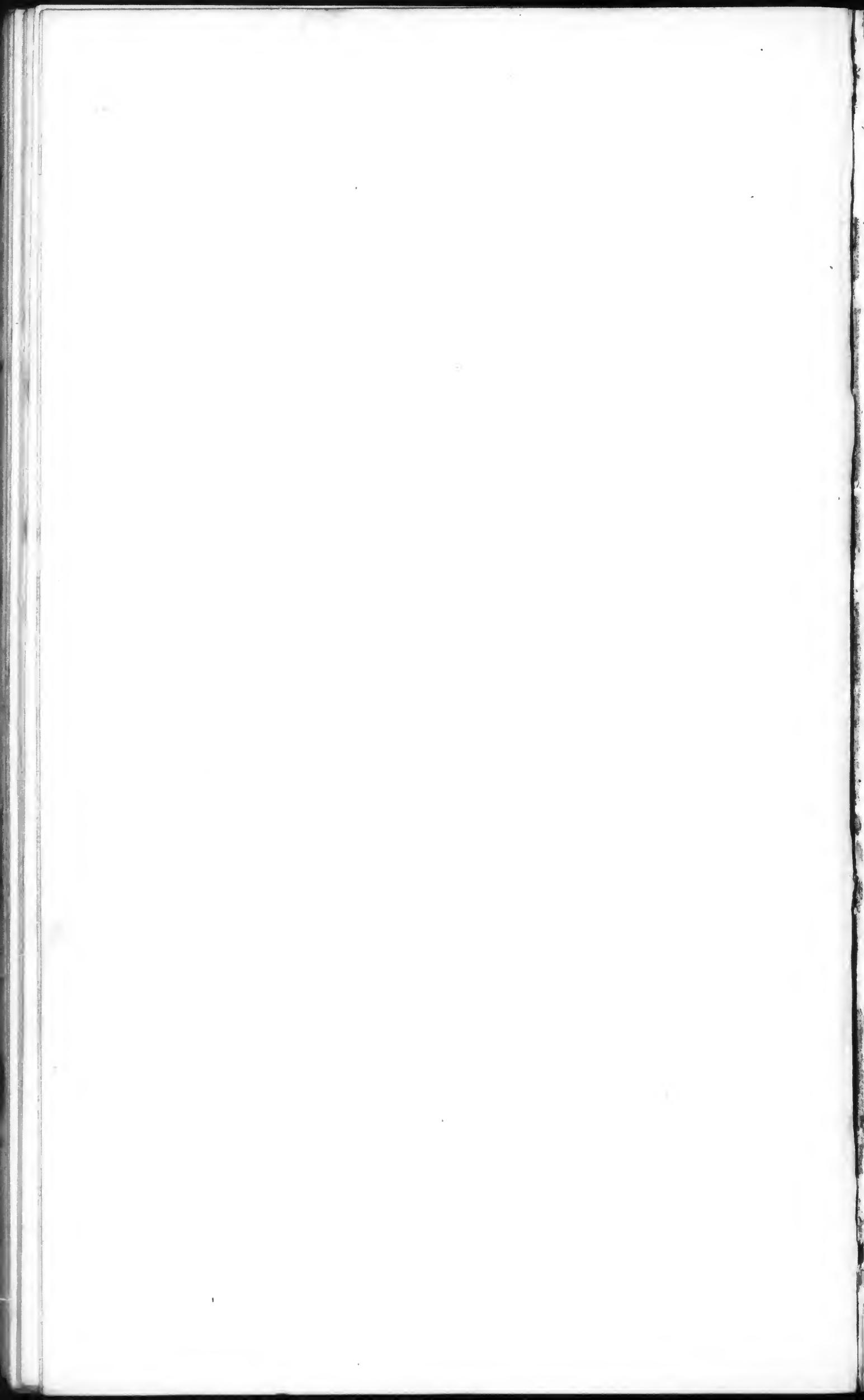
March 22. “ I am persuaded, we many times bring trouble upon ourselves by parleying with Satan; we do not use our armour as we ought: We should act faith, when we think we have no faith.— Sometimes I think I have faith to remove mountains; at other times, I am as if I knew not whether I had a grain of faith, or any grace at all; so fluctuating is my frame! Now, if this were the *foundation* I was to build my soul upon for salvation, what a miserable creature I should be! but, blessed be God, I have not so learned Christ; his *blood* and *righteousness* is what I rest my all upon, for time and eternity.”

April 12. “ what a winter have I had in my soul, through reasoning with Satan and unbelief! At times I have been ready to give up my hope. I could not see the accuser of the brethren. How

that wily serpent gains access to our spirit, is a mystery to me; but the Lord, that watcheth over his people, sees all his wiles, and disappoints him. If we could commit all our ways and cares into his hands, all would be well. If indeed we find in ourselves a hatred to sin, and can appeal unto God, that we would rather die than grieve his spirit; we may assure our hearts that God hath wrought this in us: for, by nature we have not one good desire. Then, through the grace of God, I am determined, whatever state I am in, to rest with all my weight and cares on what Christ hath done and suffered. I want no other salvation; I will have no other; I believe there is no other; therefore I believe the gates of hell shall never prevail against me. *Hallelujah!*

June 4. "In the evening when I was retired, the enemy came upon me with fury, and said, 'All your praying and doing is in vain; how do you know but you have been deceiving yourself all these years?' I answered with great indignation, 'Satan, thou art a liar. I know that my Redeemer liveth, and will appear to my salvation, and to thy destruction; thou knowest it: therefore leave off to tempt me. Thou knowest, Jesus ever lives above, at his Father's right hand, and pleads his precious blood for me. I know that I am his, and shall be with him to behold his glory. My soul disdains to fear; for the Lord Jehovah is my *righteousness and strength.*' Upon this Satan fled: He cannot stand the blood of Christ."





September 19. "In reading Flavel's *Providence*, what scenes were opened to me in my own life! I can truly say to the glory of God, *goodness and mercy have followed me all my days*, even from my infancy. What dangers have I escaped both by sea and land.* What narrow turns for life! and what sins has the Lord by his providence preserved me from! Stand astonished, O my soul, at

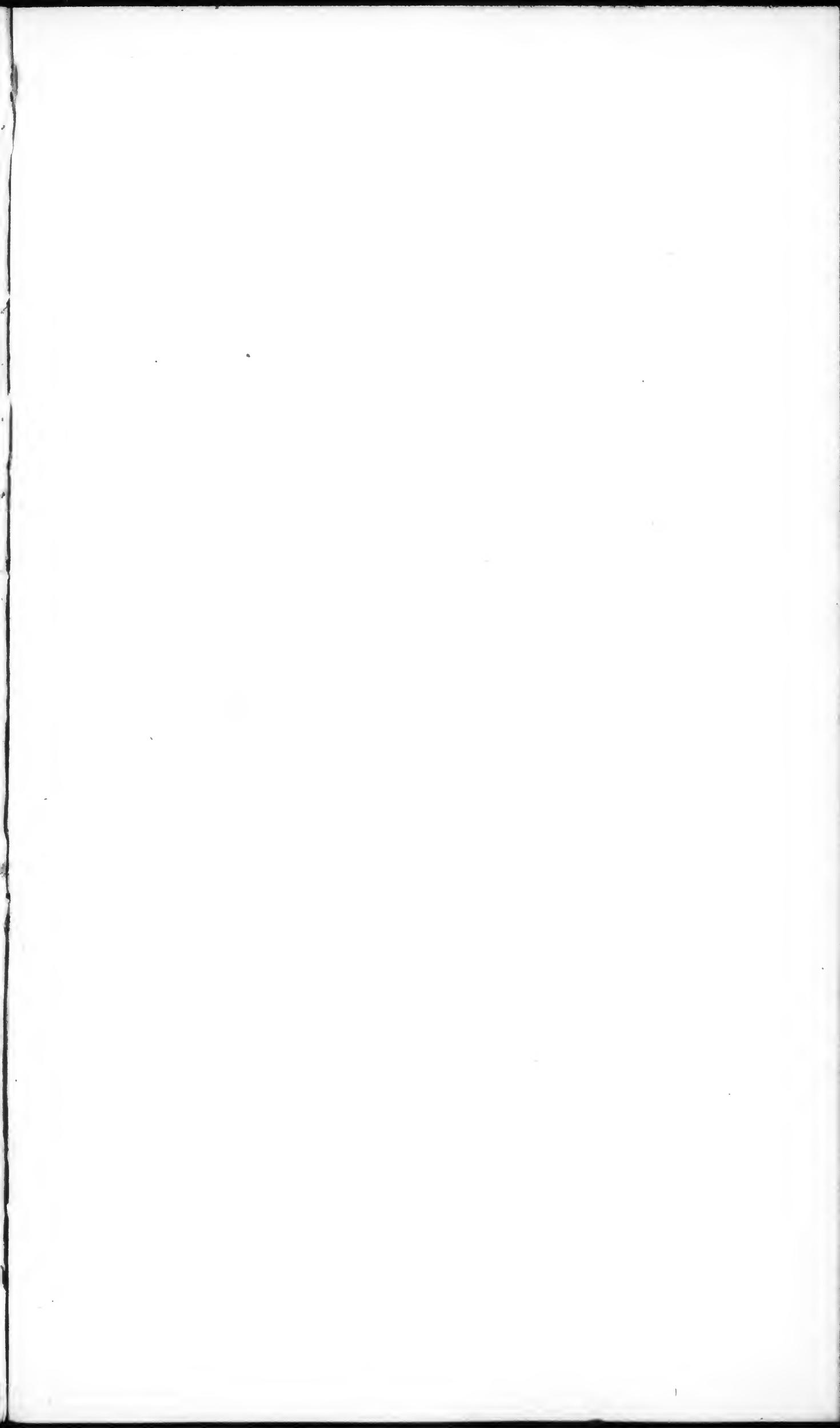
* The following interposition of Providence is worthy to be recorded. "Having been on a visit at *Newcastle* for my health, (she observes) as I always went and returned by sea, I took leave of my relatives, and went in a boat for *Shields*, to engage a place in one of the vessels to *London*. When I came thither, I met with a neighbour going also to *London*; who told me she had agreed to go with Captain *F.* and wished me to accompany her; but upon hearing his name, I felt immediately such an aversion, that I said I would not go with him, though I did not know his person, neither could give any reason. I told my friend, that as she had agreed to go with him, she ought to go; but she replied, 'I will not lose your company;' so we both went with Captain *B.* of *Whitby*. We set sail on *Good Friday* in the morning, about 40 ships in company: But, we had but just got over the *Bar* into the sea, when a storm arose and scattered us widely from each other. The storm began about seven o'clock in the morning, and we were in it till *nine* at night. Two men were continually at the pumps, and two at the helm. It pleased God we got into the *Humber*, where we lay five days before we sailed again. Before we got in here, Captain *B.* came and asked us all, how we did? and then added, 'It is a mercy we are here; I fear we shall have a sad account when we reach *London*.' When we arrived, we found that *eight* ships had been lost, among which was *that* in which my friend had agreed to go, and every soul therein perished! Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. This was the Lord's doing, and it is still marvellous in mine eyes."

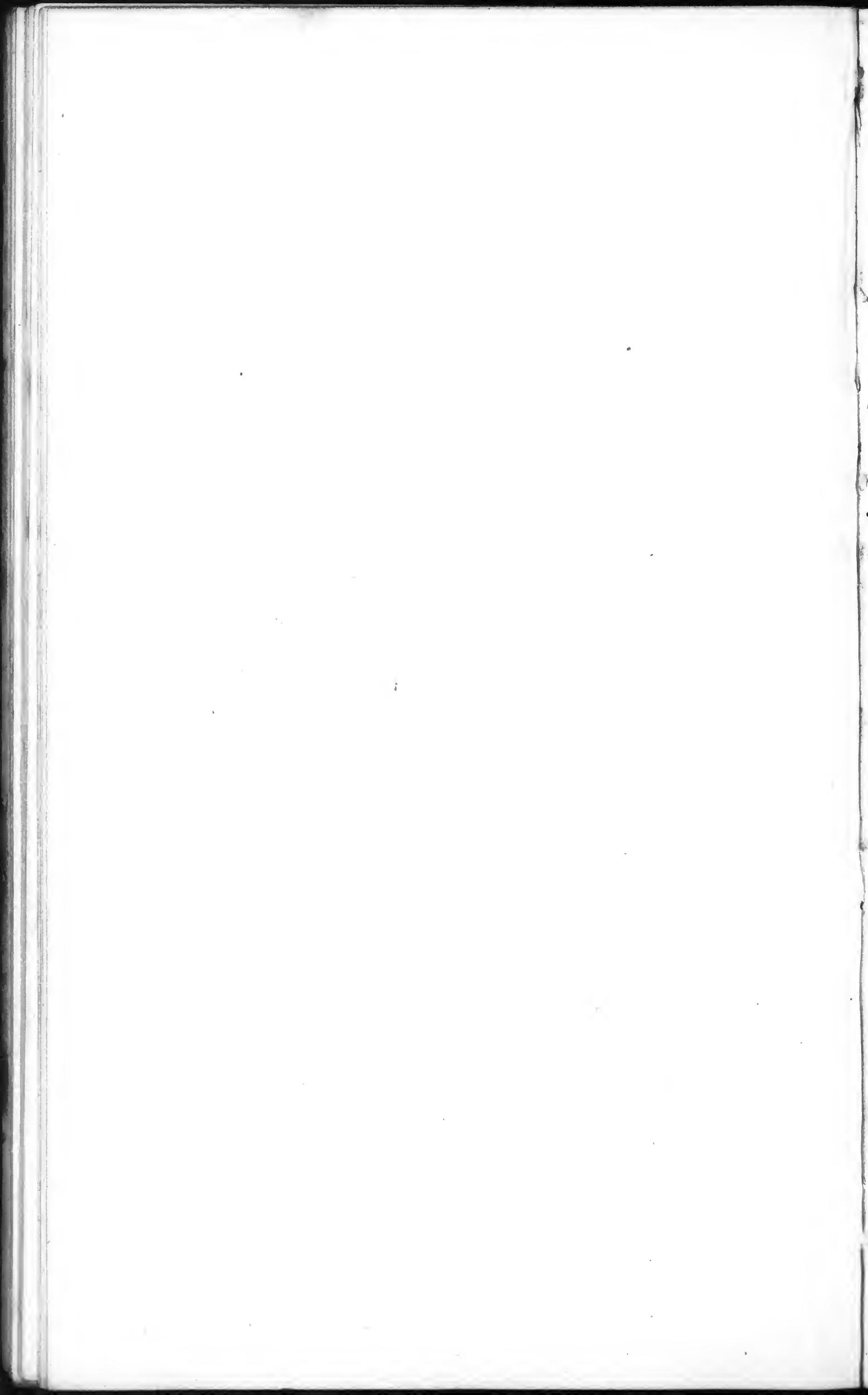
the loving kindness of the Lord ! His arm unsteered prevented and saved a poor helpless sinner from ruin's brink,

“ When thro' the flowery paths of youth
With heedless steps I ran.”

October 11. “ I began to fear for the ark of God. What a poor *Uzzah* am I ! will not God defend his own cause ? he surely will. He purchased the church with his own blood, and he will take care of it, so long as it is in the wilderness, till he comes the second time *without sin unto salvation.*”

December 6. “ Several days past I have found the state of my mind very uneven, uphill and down. Unbelief is the torment of my soul. When I feel myself a little comforted, then I long to be gone, that I might sin no more, to grieve my Lord by carnal reasoning. Oh, that I could simply believe what the Lord has said unto me ! but I am so afraid of being deceived at last, which makes me unhappy ; and as soon as my comfort is gone, Satan returns upon me with double fury. How long shall I grieve God, by making him as *changeable* as myself ! wretch that I am, it is a wonder God doth not cut me off, and cast me into hell. Indeed, the Lord does know, I would *rejoice evermore*, and *pray without ceasing* ; and many times I have great reason so to do ; for the Lord doth often comfort my soul with the consolations of his spirit ; but still I am afraid, when these comforts are gone, lest





they are not from the Spirit of God. Yet, I find they draw my heart after God and heaven. O thou, *that knowest all things, thou knowest that I love thee.*—Many think Mrs. B. has no trials; she has no doubts or fears. Oh, that it were so! but they are much mistaken. My want of God's presence in my soul, is worse to me than all outward afflictions. As to the world, I have all it can give me. Blessed be God, he has given me a Son, who supplies me with all I want in the world; and I doubt not but God will give it him again. It is not any thing below the skies that troubles me; no, 'tis what the world can neither give nor take away, that I mourn for. Sometimes I can say,

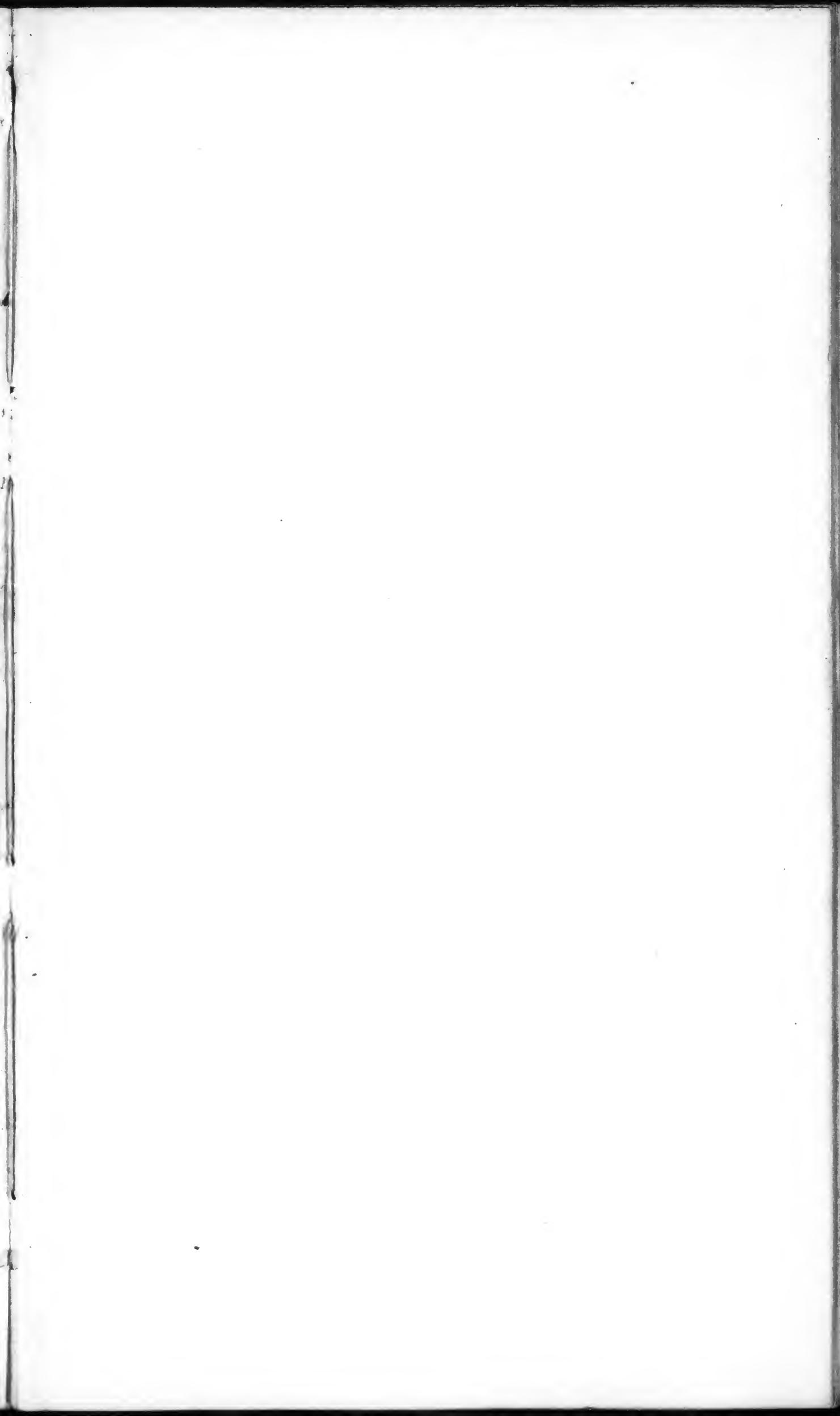
“Cheer up my soul, be not afraid,
For Christ is near at hand;
And thou shalt surely with him be,
When he on Sion stands.”

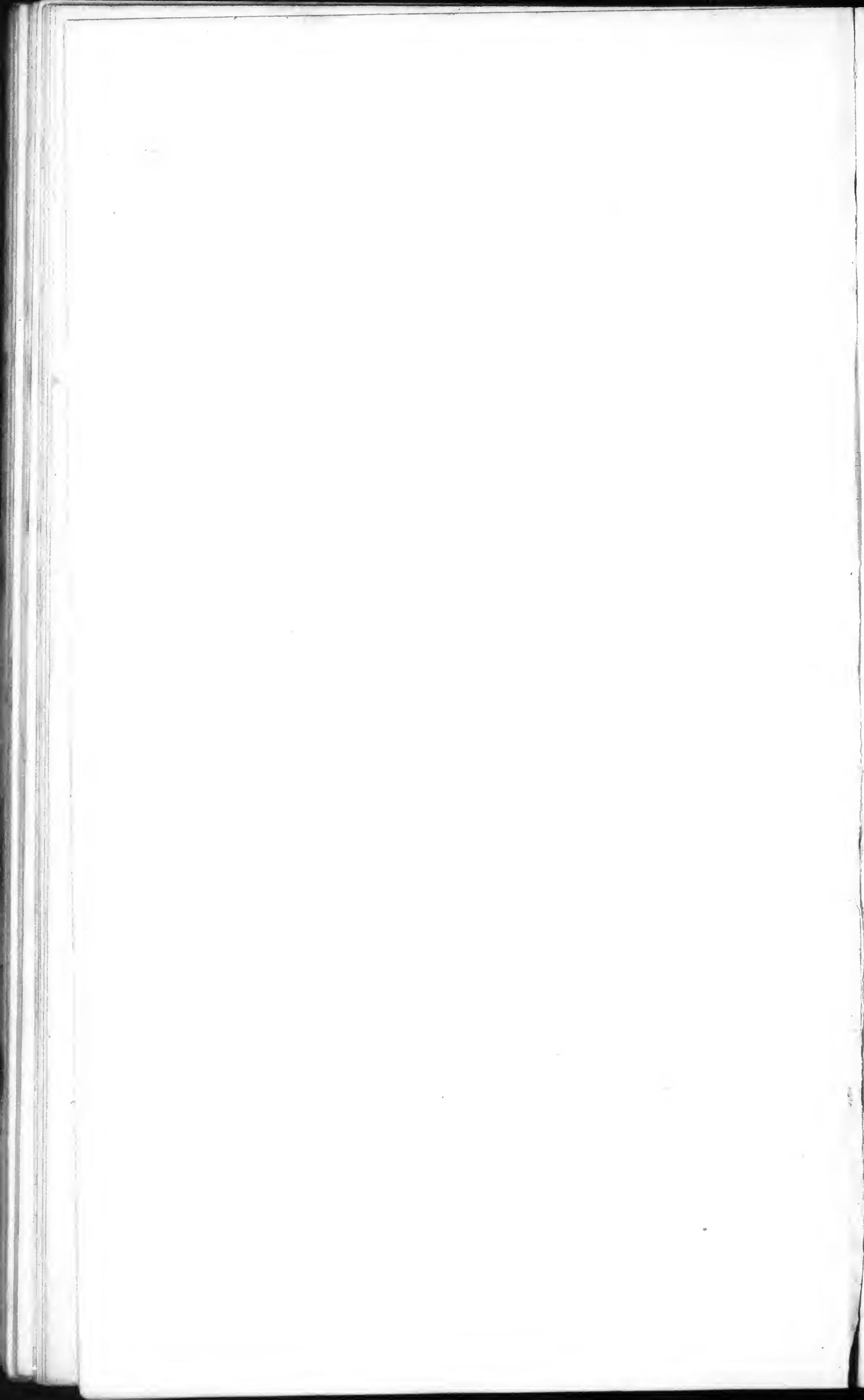
Those are sweet and pleasant moments. Praise the Lord, O my soul, for thou hast largely tasted of his comforts in times past; then *hope thou in God, for thou shalt yet praise him, who is the health of thy countenance.*

Dec. 23. “This day has been to me *a day without clouds*; as the day of my first espousal to Christ. My heavenly Father took away the veil, and made me sensible he is *my Father* still, after all my unfaithfulness and shortcomings.—When I hear people say, *If we are faithful, and do our part, God will do his*, it galls me; I am not able to

contain myself. Faithfulness in the creature! I wonder where it dwells! I never yet found or saw that person, for the space of *fifty-six* years, and I have been with high and low Christians. Nevertheless, it is the duty of every one that makes a profession of believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, to be faithful and fruitful in every good work; not to merit by it, but as fruit by which the tree is known. The faith of the operation of God will shew itself by good works; but to think that we must do any thing to make up what is wanting on God's part, I loth, I detest it. Salvation is of the Lord, fully and freely, from first to last."

1797, January 27. "What a night of tossings has the Lord brought me through! Here I will set up my *Ebenezer*, and praise my God. I feel and see my fallen state in such a degree, that if God, in his great mercy, did not point me to the fulness that is in Christ, I should despair still. O wicked damning unbelief! my soul is many times sick through that many headed monster; when I think it is gone, it rears its head again and affrights me. It is of God's wonderful mercy I am not cut off, and cast into hell. This is my just demerit; but I have an Advocate above—a friend before the Throne of Love.—I read that he is made of God to them that believe, "wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption;" but *do I believe?* I dare not say, I do *not* believe. I know I was accepted in the Beloved, and God *cannot change*;





therefore, my soul, hold fast thy confidence, let no one take thy crown. I would fain say, *the will of the Lord be done*; but I am loth to give up *my Isaac*. Oh, for *Abraham's* faith! when I think of him, I sink into nothing. But, am I called to expect such faith as *Abraham* had? why not? seeing God is the same in all his attributes; and I believe, if I could act faith upon God as I ought, I should see wonders performed even for such a poor sinner as me. Yea, I have seen wonderful things; but I will give God the glory. I would not, however, be understood to think myself like *Abraham*; but I find a principle in my soul, that would shew my love to my Lord, if I knew how. Teach me, O Lord, thy will and my duty!"

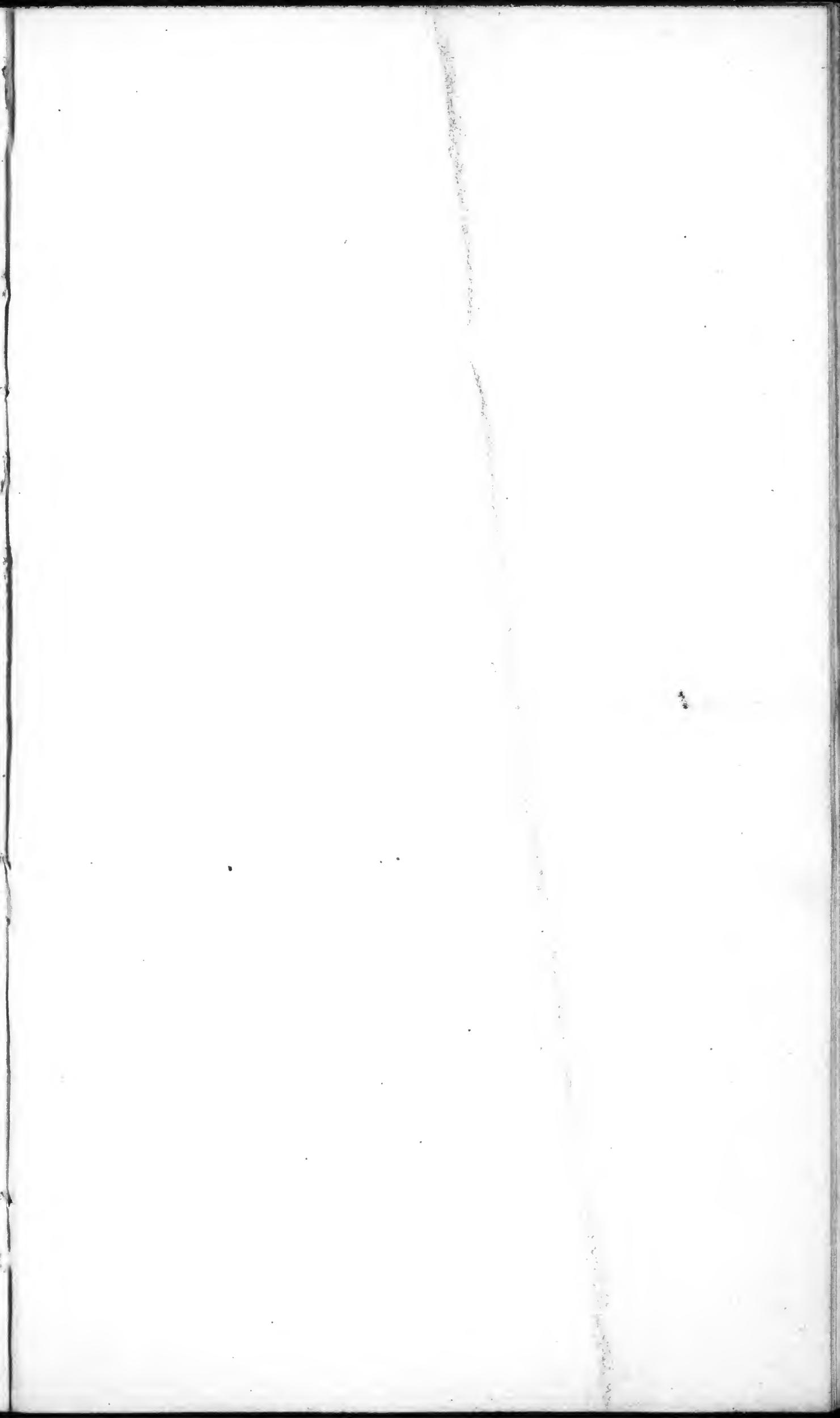
March 26. "I am full of *vain thoughts*; from whence do they come? O Lord, thou knowest I hate them; they oppress my soul: I cry unto God for deliverance, but no answer. O Lord, thou art stronger than all the powers of hell, and greater than my heart! I need not any one to tell me I am a *fallen creature*; I feel it, and groan under it; but blessed be God for that *fountain which was opened for sin and uncleanness*. The blood of Jesus cleanseth from all sin; this I long to feel for myself."

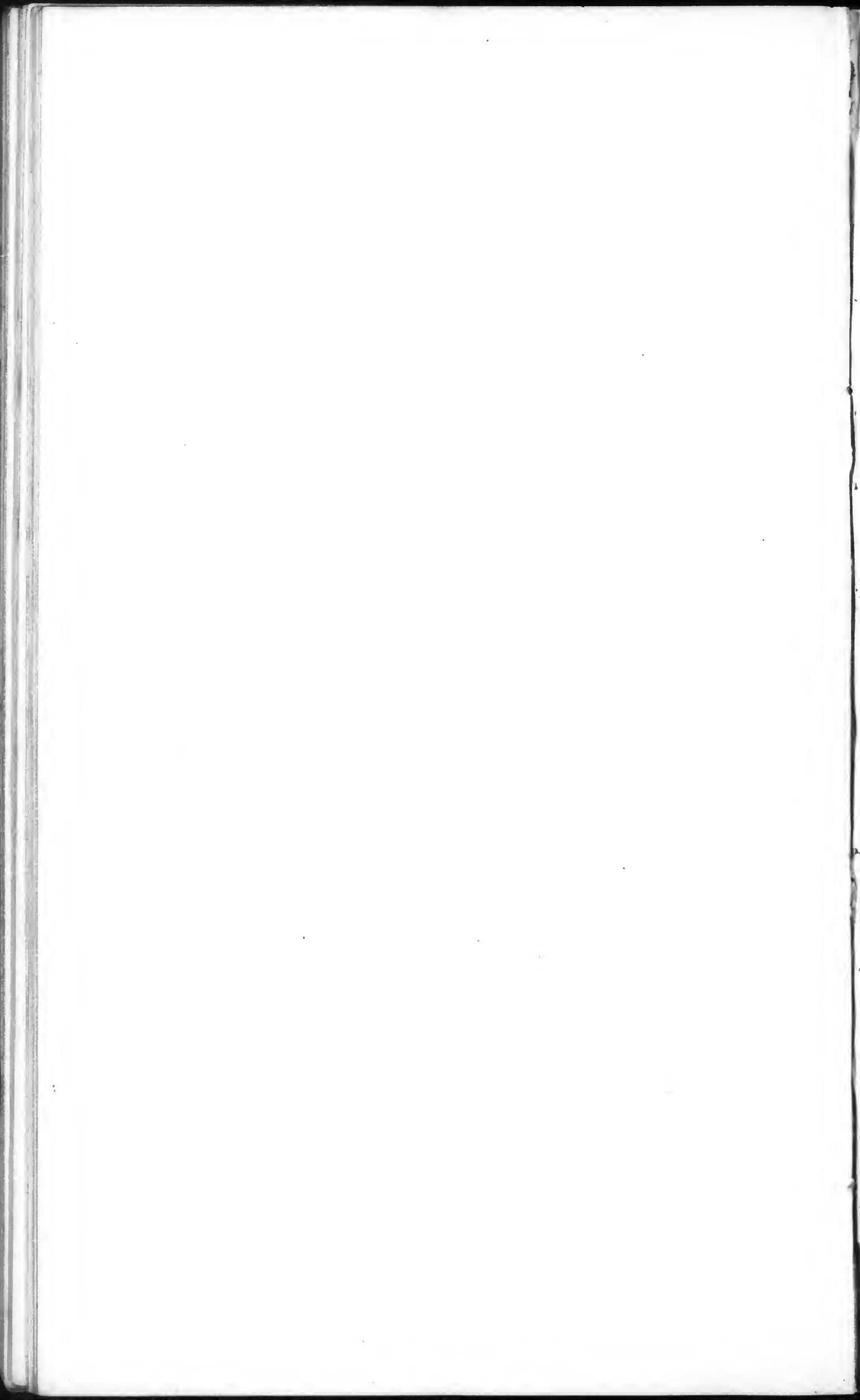
April 16. Easter Sunday. "This day my Lord rose from the dead, triumphing over all the powers of darkness; and this I feel he did for *me*. The

Spirit of God beareth witness with my spirit that it is so. Then, my soul, doubt no more; thy ransom is paid to the full; God's law and justice are satisfied. Praise the Lord, O my soul; for Jesus' blood hath made me free from the law of sin and death. O Lord, help me to walk worthy of my calling here, that I may walk hereafter with Christ in white, amen!"

July 24. "I find myself much out of health. I bless God I am nevertheless content. Health of soul is what I long for; to shine more in the image of the Lord Jesus: I want to be truly happy, so as to take all things well, without being moved; seeing the promise is, *all things shall work together for good to them that love God.* I hope I do love my God a little. Indeed, I am truly ashamed before him for my little love and service; this makes me weep in secret places. Oh, I have a forgiving God! I am astonished at his patience, that he bears with all my perverseness."

July 30. "Our prayer meeting was as usual; I found it good to wait upon God. I was ill and weak when I rose; but I durst not make it an excuse. Before the meeting was over, the Lord renewed my strength, both of soul and body. Before dinner I was drawn to private prayer; there the Lord was pleased to make me a *Bethel-visit,* and said unto me, *I am thy God.* Astonishing! I was filled with love and wonder; it abased me into the dust. I have not had such a clear mani-





festation of God for some time past. Praise the Lord, O my soul!"

October 3. " 'Tis 48 years this day, since I gave my hand to my dear *I. B.* of precious memory to me this moment, as at the first. Out of that number I have been a widow *thirty-eight*. What seas of grief has God brought me through, none but he and myself know. What lays before me yet, I leave to my dear Redeemer. He hath given strength for my day hitherto; and his arm is not shortened. O Lord, increase my faith and the graces of thy Spirit in me; then I shall not fear."

October 19. " What a monster do I seem to myself! Is it possible, that grace should reign, where such pride and self and every abomination remain? I am ready to say, all my religion is hypocrisy; am I not deceiving myself and others? Thou God, that seest and knowest, be pleased to shew me the true state of my soul! This I can still say, I would rather die, than wilfully sin against thee."

November 22. " I have finished reading again *Brown's Sunday Thoughts*, greatly to my satisfaction. The Lord was pleased by them to pour such light and comfort into my soul, that I was humbled as it were into nothing before God. I must and do say, I have reaped more knowledge and comfort from them, than almost any writer I have read; though, when I took them into my hand, and read the *Dedication*, I threw them aside, saying, they

are too refined for me. But I have read them several times over, and am always sorry when they are done; I begin again, and they are always new: Thanks be to God, they were ever put into my hands."

December 12. "O my God, make me willing to follow thee in whatsoever state thou pleasest! Thou hast done wonders for me; thou hast brought me down to old age; and wilt thou forsake me now; forbid such a thought, O Lord!"

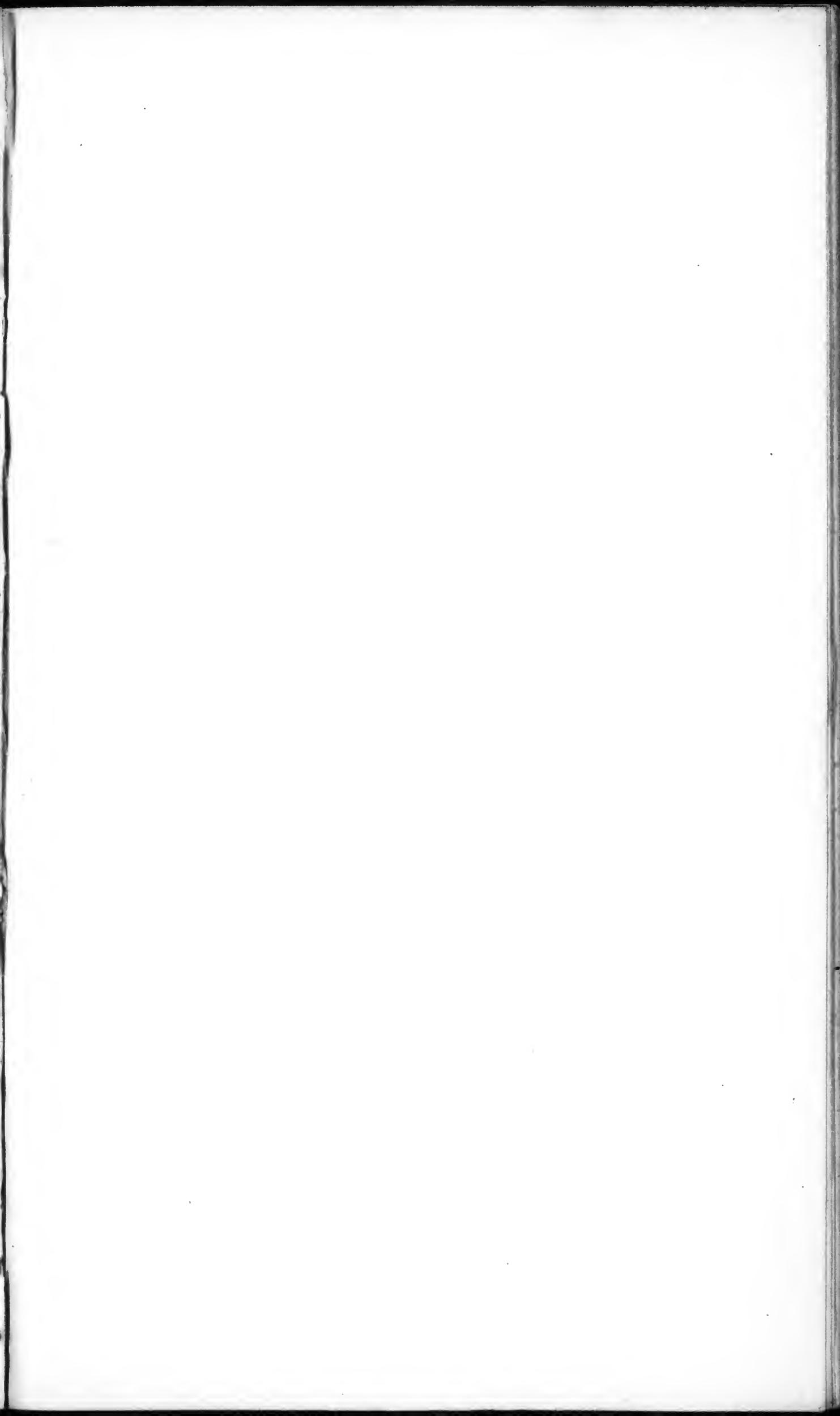
In troubles past thy power I've known,
In seven thou wilt thy servant own.

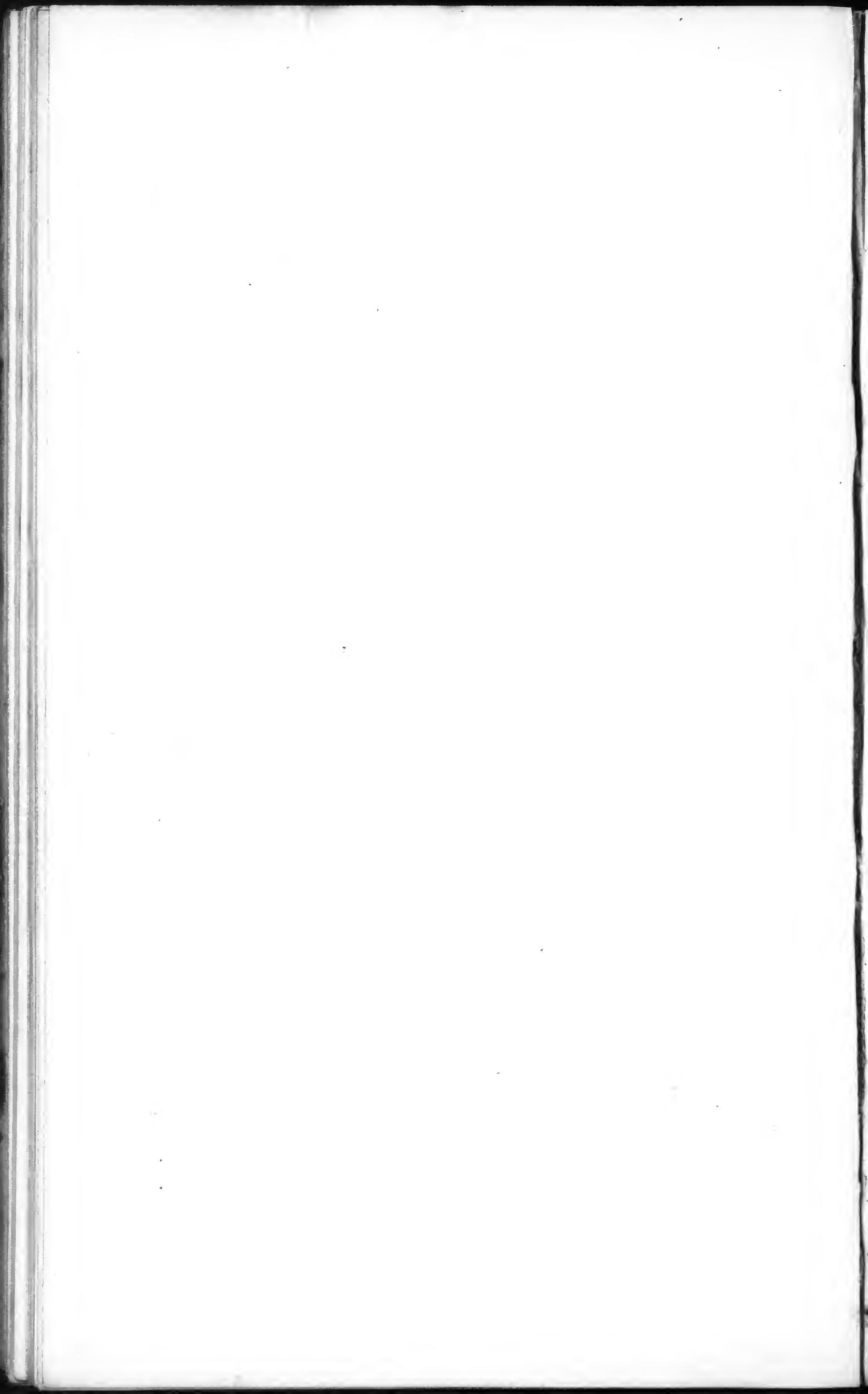
Only be thou my shield and tower, and I will not fear what earth or hell can do against me.

Thy praises still my soul shall sing,
And triumph in my God and king."

1798, *January 24.* "How am I tossed in my mind through unbelief! Shall I ever walk steadily? Sometimes I am full of faith and peace; at other times I am sinking into overwhelming grief; all through reasoning about my unfaithfulness! O God, arise and scatter my enemies! I groan to be set at liberty from this body of sin and death."

January 25. "Blessed be God, this morning in family prayer the Lord visited me, and put Satan to flight, with these words, *hope thou in God, for thou shalt yet praise him, who is the health of thy countenance, and thy God.* This was a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord."





—God knows, I hate Satan's kingdom; I am an enemy to him and all his works: therefore it is no wonder, that he does all *he is permitted*, to distract my poor soul: but it will all fall upon his own head at last."

Feb. 16. "This morning has been a time never to be forgotten by me. How could I plead with my Lord for his church, as it were *face to face*! I have not had such an intercourse between God and my soul for many months. O my God, so good, so kind to me the most unworthy! I am lost in wonder. O Lord, fill my soul with love and praise!"

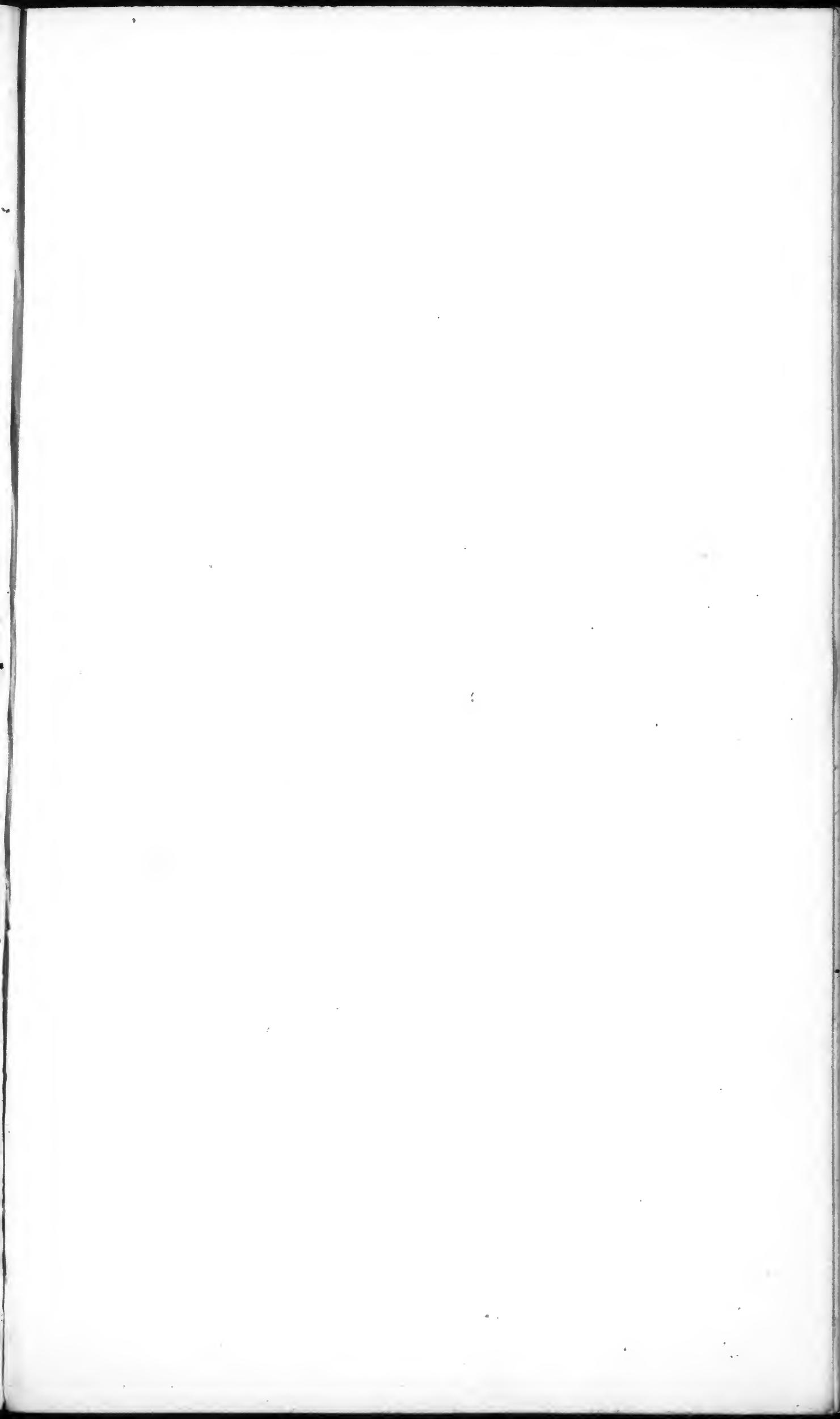
March 17. "I feel my cottage of clay coming down fast. The visit of God to my son *W.* hath helped me forward towards my heavenly home. I thank God for it. *This is not my rest*; my Lord hath said *It is polluted*. Arise then, my soul, and stretch thy pinions; perhaps it will not be long ere thou be called for. May I be found compleat in Christ! that is all my wish. I believe without a doubt, I shall."

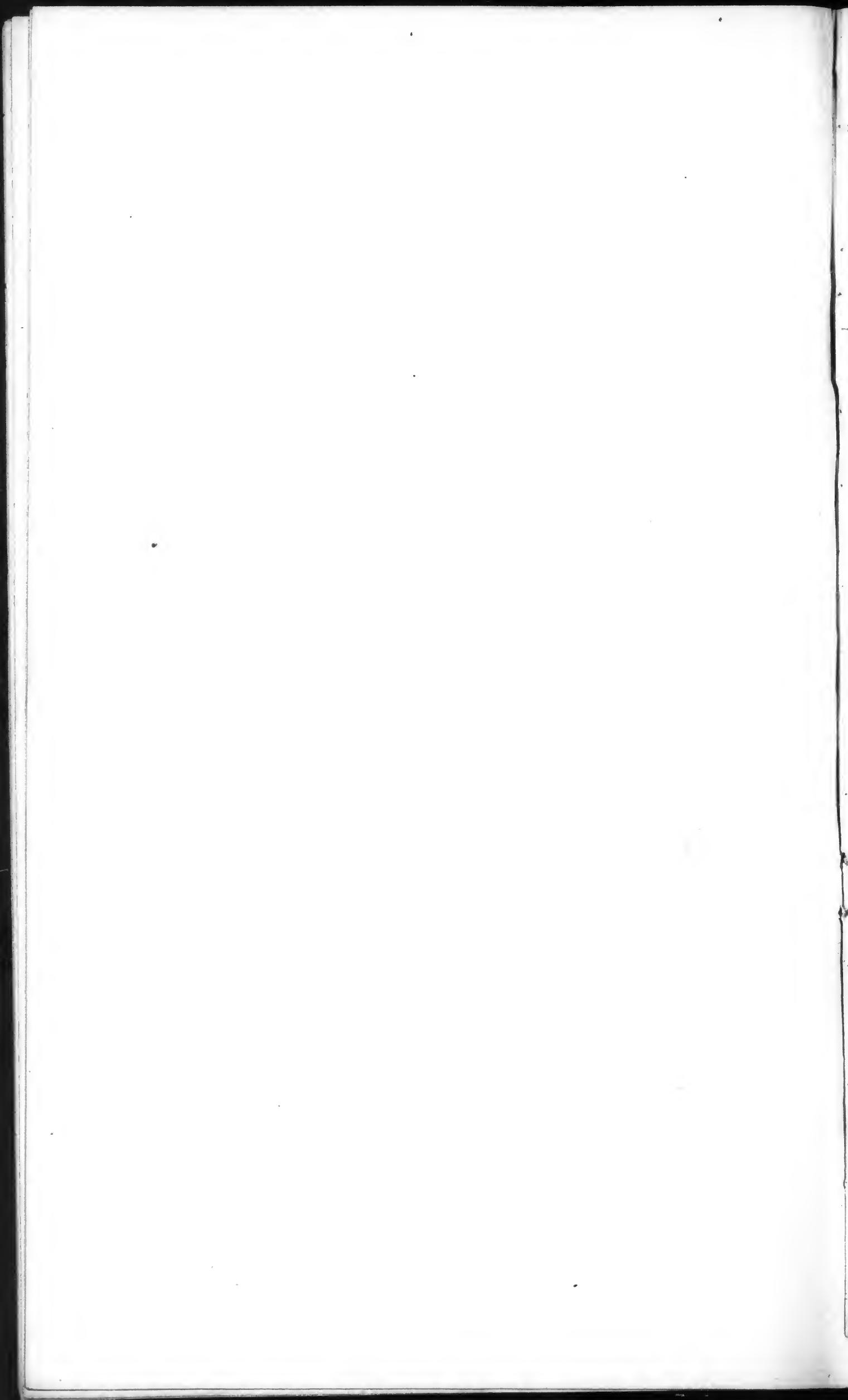
June 28. "I have been in the school of Christ nearly *sixty* years, and the nearer I approach eternity, the more I see my need of a compleat Saviour. Oh, how I admire the glorious plan of redemption by the Son of God! O Lord Jesus, I would lay in the dust before thee; may my desires to love thee be accepted, amen!"

August 22. "My inward strength begins to fail. 'Tis well, I do not murmur, believing that God will be the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever. Not for any thing in or by me, no; I am made truly sensible, it is *not by works of Righteousness that I am saved, but freely by grace alone*, abounding through the Son of God. I believe no other doctrine; yea, I hate all such doctrine as depreciates the merits of Jesus Christ: every other foundation is rotten."

September 10. "I have been learning the *plague of my own heart* these *sixty years*; but I can truly say, I know very little of the depths of iniquity that are in our fallen nature. We carry our greatest foe within us. I have learned also, by grace, that the more I know of sin, the more I loathe it. I am not speaking here of *outward sins*, no; glory be to God, he has kept me from all outward evil; and by his grace I am not led captive by *inward sin*, though I many times groan with the burden of it: I wait when my Lord Jesus shall give me the victory."

Sept. 19. "I bless God I feel a revival in my dry drooping soul. I have had a long winter-season, and all through *reasoning*. If Satan can bring us to pore upon our own hearts, till we lose the sight and sense of Christ's fulness, he gains his end. This, the Lord knows; I am now saying from bitter experience. Yes, in deep waters hath my soul travailed; through floods of temptations have





I passed ; but out of them all the Lord has brought me. He hath again set my feet upon *himself* the rock of ages ; and *I doubt not.*"—How tenderly doth my heavenly Father deal with me so unworthy ! I feel my bodily strength, and all my faculties decline ; more within these *three months*, than for a twelvemonth before. I can rejoice, that my journey is almost over. Methinks I sometimes see those that once were my companions here, but now inheriting mansions above, stand waiting their Lord's command to go and fetch their *Sister Spirit* home. I doubt not of our joyful meeting. The Lord has given me a *love-token* this morning in prayer, that he will come quickly. O how sweet is the name of *Jesus* to my soul, sweeter than all perfumes ! Give me my God, and let all the world forsake me."

October 30. "What has the Lord done for this nation ! If the *French* had accomplished their designs, our land had been a field of blood. Their hero, *Bonaparte*, entered Egypt like *Goliath*; but our *one-arm Nelson*, in the strength of our God, like *little David*, overcame him.—O my God, thou shalt have the praise, and I will pray for and love the Admiral, and all that were with him in the battle. It pleased me well, when I was told that *Nelson* said, *The LORD hath done it.* Yes, the Lord orders the battle."

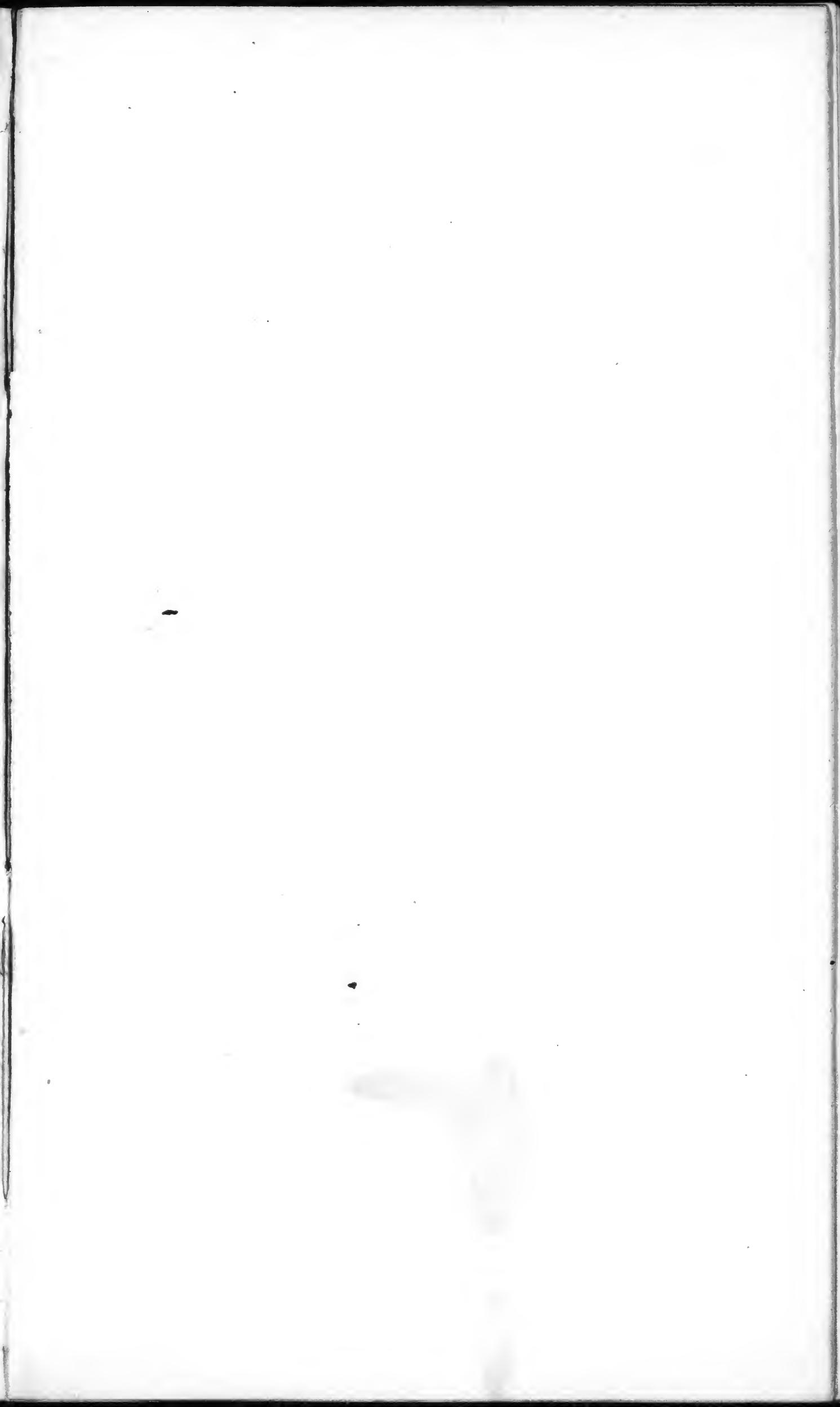
November 20. "I have been under violent temptation, as if I was going to die suddenly ; and Satan

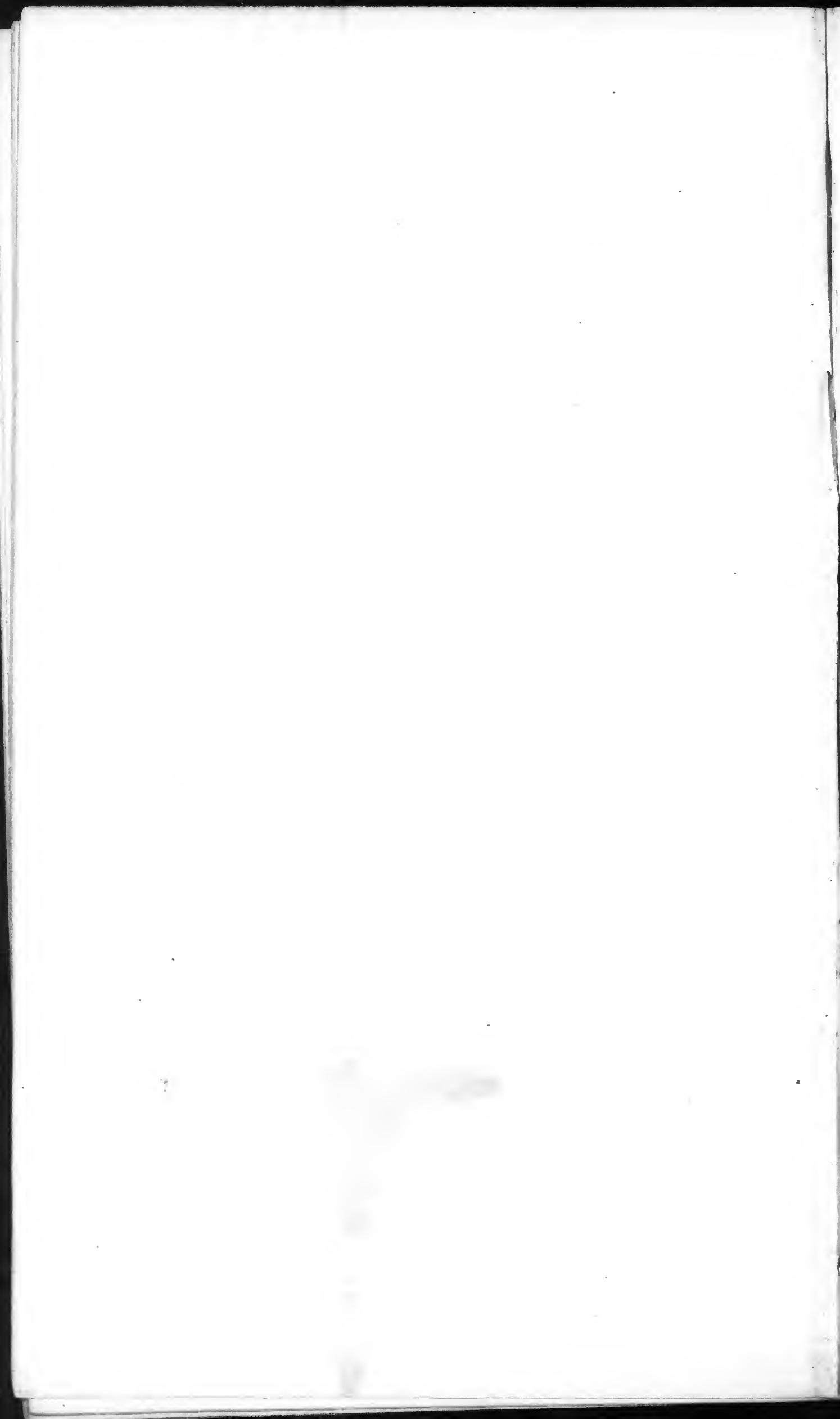
used all his efforts to terrify me. I wanted a clearer evidence of my interest in Christ; I was almost overwhelmed with gloom; I found many things upon my mind which quite distressed me, so that I could neither eat, sleep, or rest: yet, I could not give up my hope. I began to examine whence all these thoughts should come? They came in a hurry; not as the 'still small voice' used to do; I was made sensible, it was the enemy: I cried therefore unto the Lord, and he delivered me. *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation.* But I wait for a further deliverance, for I feel my bruises yet: My spirit is very low, waiting for the sweet countenance of my Lord to shine; then I shall be well."

December 15. "After family worship I was meditating on several things, particularly, on those words in 2 Cor. xiii. 5. *Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith,* etc. I felt myself troubled, lest I should fall short after all. At length, while I was praying to God with many tears, and lamenting my unfaithfulness and short comings, these words were as if spoken to me,

Cease, doubting soul, thy debt is paid;
Thy sins were all on Jesus laid,
He bore them all away.

I believed, and my sorrow vanished, and left me a melted, humbled broken heart; which may I ever feel, for then I am happy."





1799, March 14. "What the Lord has brought me through several weeks past, tongue cannot express. Surely if God had not been with me, I had been destroyed by the furies of hell. I was brought to great extremity; stripped as it were of all sense of God, or heavenly things—I was quite under a dark vail for weeks. None but God knows what I laboured under.—I did not know, that I had fallen into any sin; but Satan suggested, that I had been unfaithful to grace received. This I could not deny; I went therefore to God with all my complaints; I poured out my soul before him; but it seemed to be all in vain, as if God did not regard my grief: But, just as I was giving up my hope, those words were given me, *Hope thou in God, for thou shalt yet praise him, who is thy God.* My grief assuaged, hope sprung up in my soul, and my joy in the Lord was renewed. I believe that God loveth with an *everlasting* love. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and let not this great deliverance slip out of thy mind!"

April 8. "Lord's day morning. Our prayer meeting was very full, and it was a good season; most of us could say, *the Lord is risen indeed.* My soul did magnify the Lord, and my spirit rejoiced in God my Saviour."

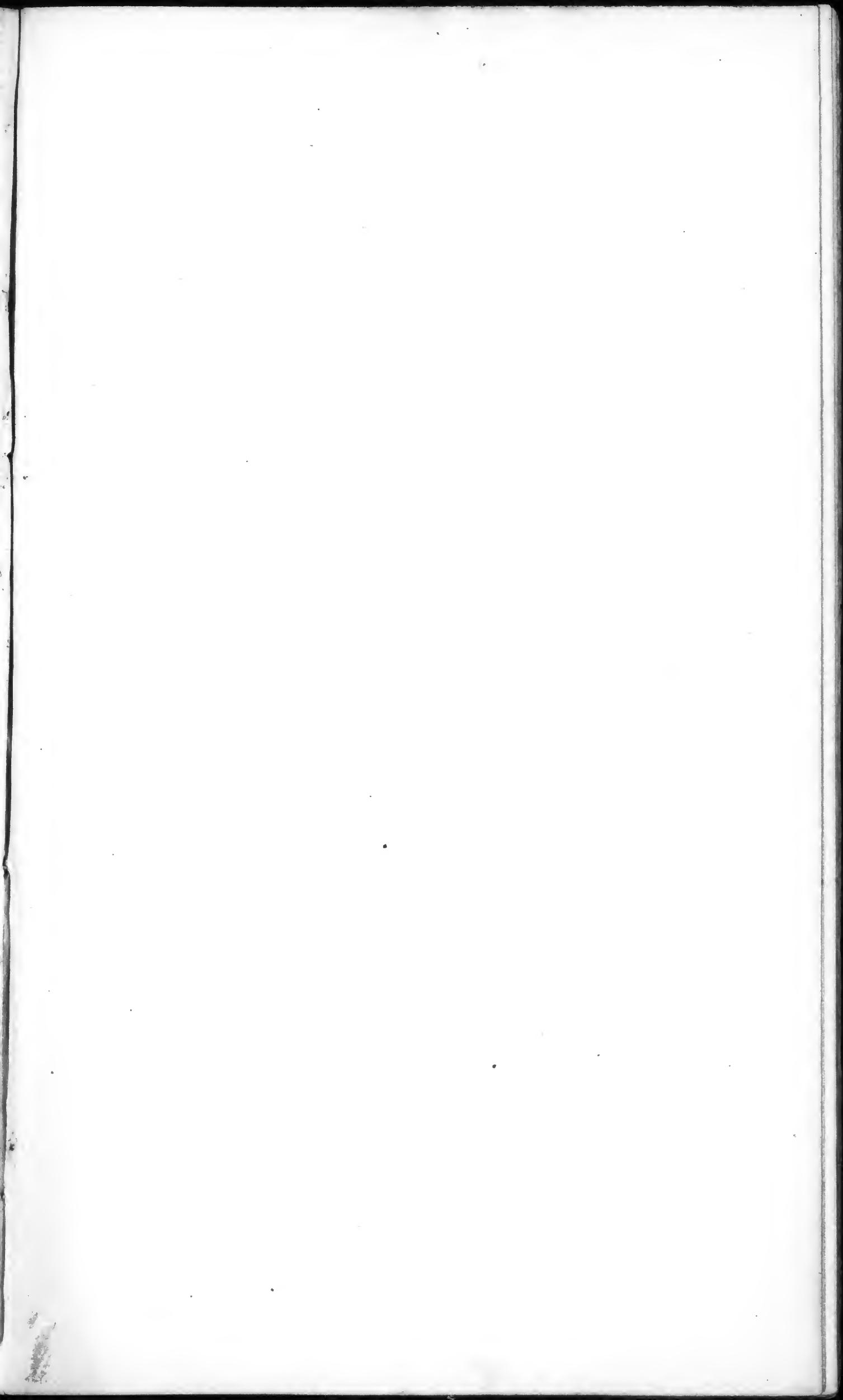
May 2. "I have had great conflicts with Satan many days, which has brought me almost into the dust. I was apprized of it before it came; and, indeed, I had fainted, had not the Lord Jesus ap-

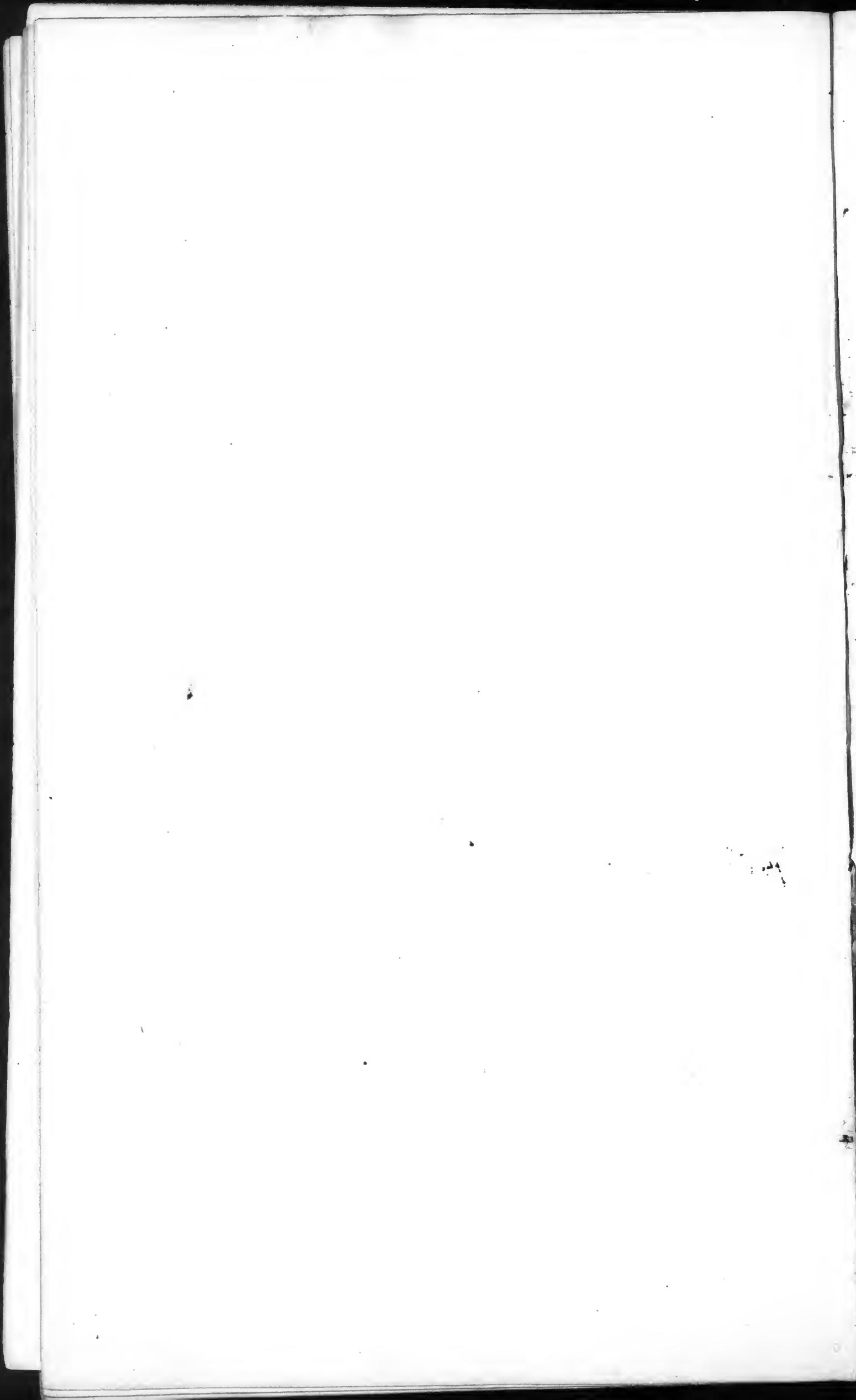
peared, and commanded the *the dogs of hell* to depart, and restored peace again to my troubled soul; Praise the Lord, O my soul, and be no longer faithless, but believe what the Lord hath said. Oh, this sin of unbelief, how doth my soul groan under it!"

May 13. "My happiest days were when I rose at 4 o'clock for prayer, and preaching at five. And I would say it to the praise and glory of God, I find it no cross at this day (being in my 84th year) to rise early to wait upon God with his people, no more than when I was *thirty*. O Lord, keep my soul awake, and athirst for thee! It has been my grief to see and feel such deadness and dulness amongst Christians; Jesus Christ was whole nights on the mountain in prayer."

August 19. "I find resignation to the will of God in whatsoever state the Lord sees best for me. Sinners should not chuse; God cannot err. I have gone through much affliction of mind since I have been confined. God alone hath been my confidant. To him I have poured out all my plaints and tears, and I believe he hath put them in his bottle. I could say much, but it is better felt than expressed. Reasoning and unbelief have been my greatest enemies. The hidings of God's face are worse to me, than all the enemies that earth or hell can raise against me."

1800, Jan. 17. "I have lived to enter upon another century, and am now nearly *eighty-five* years





of age; a wonder to myself and to many! But why should we wonder? Is it not God that gave me life? and has he not a right to continue it so long as will be for his glory? For what cause I am spared, is best known to my heavenly Father; and this I can say in his presence, 'Suffer me not to live a day longer than is for thy glory!' *For me to live is Chsist, but to die is gain;* yet I do not chuse, his will is best. Then, help me, Lord, to wait my appointed time, till my change come! Sometimes I have pleasing thoughts, that some of my old companions will come to meet me, and welcome me home.—But my eyes forbid me at present saying any more."

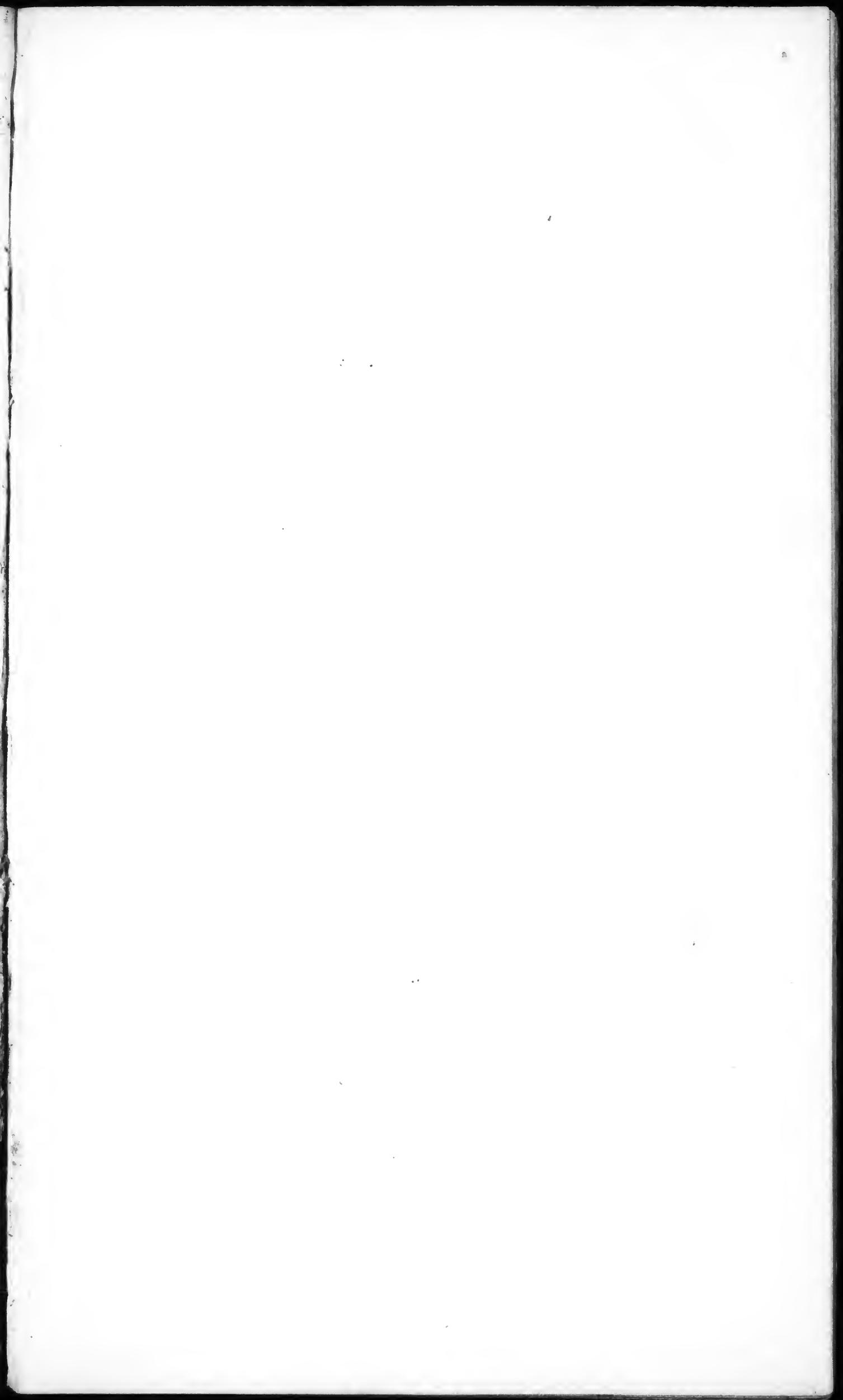
January 19, Lord's day morning. "Our prayer meeting was a time to be remembered; the place was filled with the presence of God; all were humbled in the dust before him; our hearts were deeply melted with a sense of his love. Praise the Lord, O my soul."

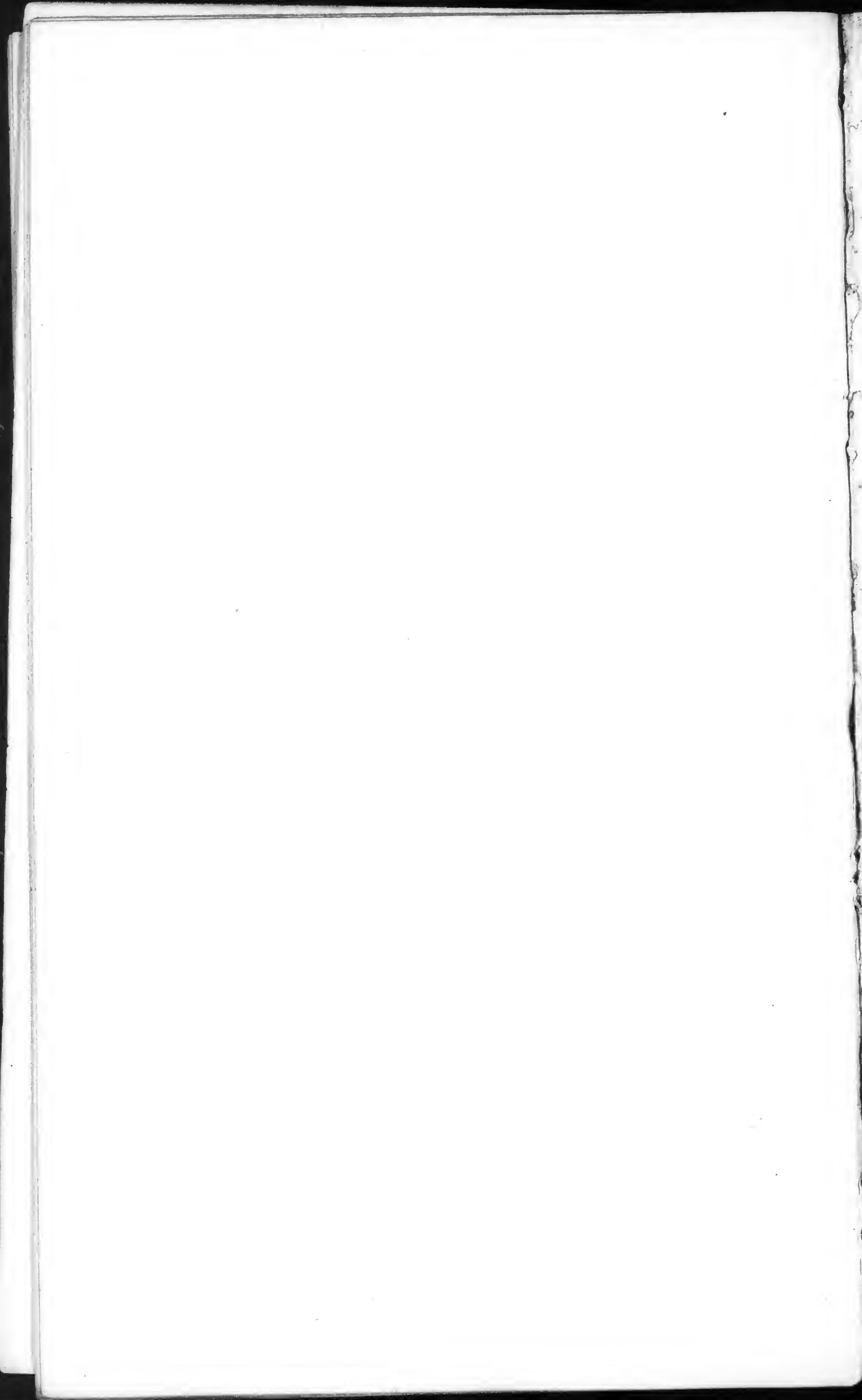
1800 June 23 "I was helped to go to hear Mr. Martindale preach an awful sermon from the mighty God speaking to Moses out of the burning bush. It was good for me that I was there. I was struck with holy awe, which I want more and more to feel. Oh, I long for the time, when I shall cast my crown before his feet, and sing *Worthy is the Lamb that was slain*, etc.—Miss D— is going, but I may be gone before her, I shall be glad to welcome her into the regions of bliss. We have

talked to ether about the sweet name of Jesus ; but then we shall see him face to face. O transporting thought ! then *all gloom shall be fled !*



The above is the last entry in her Diary ; her sight being now so impaired, that she could no longer guide her pen. And from this time she began to feel very sensibly the greatest affliction she had yet suffered, namely, the great difficulty of reading the word of God ; which for so many years had been her chief joy. Every help was tried to assist her in this ; and so long as she could by any efforts whatsoever, distinguish the words, and collect the sense, of the sacred pages, they were her continual meditation. Many tears did she shed when she could no longer read for herself the precious volume of inspiration ; and if now and then a lucid interval occurred, when she could as it were catch a glance of its contents, she spoke of it with most lively thankfulness and joy. Frequently, also did she bless God, for having inspired her heart so much to delight in reading his word formerly, since her memory was thereby stored with Scripture, on which she could reflect and converse with pleasure.—The remainder of her days were spent with unabating zeal in the good ways of God ; particularly in stirring up and encouraging all such as appeared to have set their faces Zionward, to attend meetings for prayer and experimental con-





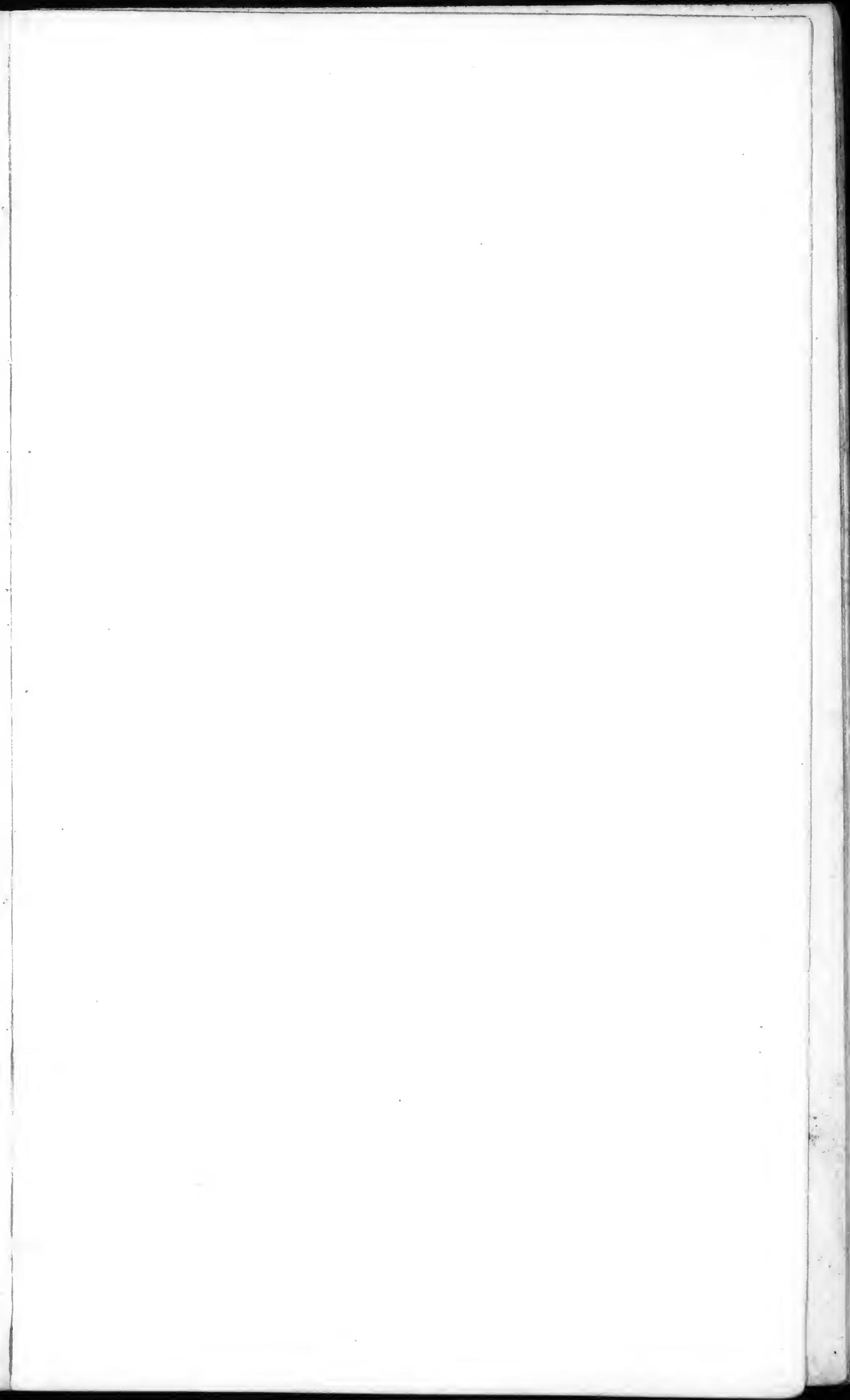
verse; which she had always found so beneficial to her own soul. Young persons of both sexes flocked around her for spiritual advice, shewing the sincerest affection and reverence for her as *a mother in Israel*; and for these she entertained a reciprocal love and esteem, having no greater joy, than to see them walking in the truth.—As she had a very deep experience in the things of God, and an extensive acquaintance among his people, she was eminently fitted to be an Instructer of Babes, and a comforter of them that mourn. This was her delightful work, even to the last. She made it the serious business of her days, and was found in it when her Lord came.

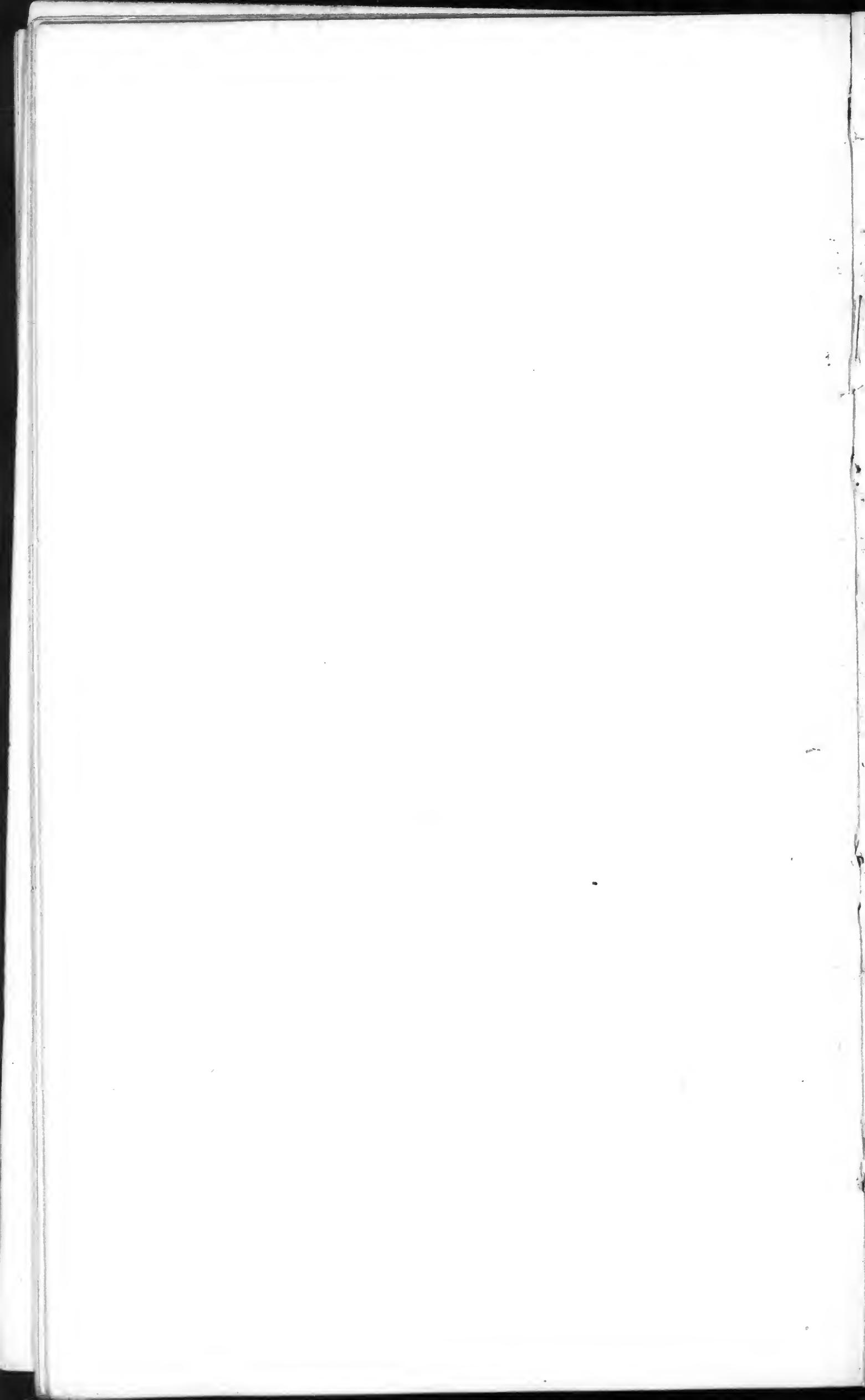
For some time previous to her last illness, the great enemy of souls was again permitted to assault and distress her by sore temptations and carnal reasonings; particularly, through the whole of that day, in the evening of which she had her last meeting with her *class*. But, such a season of refreshing from the presence of the Lord did she then experience, as will long be remembered by several. Speaking of this afterwards, but a little before her death, she observed, “I had been praying to the Lord, that I might have a prosperous meeting that night; and, when we were just entering on the service of it, those words were given me in a wonderful manner, *The Spirit of God beareth witness with my spirit, that I am a child of God.* I had

such a sense of the *pardoning love* of God—of *my acceptance* in Christ the Beloved—and of *my adoption* through the Spirit, that I could not help speaking aloud amongst the people, *I know that my Redeemer liveth.*" And in such a solemn and affectionate manner did she commend her Christian friends to God, and take leave of them, as if she had been certain that her dissolution was near at hand.

This appears to have been graciously designed of God, to strengthen her for a further and yet more trying conflict of soul with the great Adversary; whom she found (as she expressed herself) *in every corner of her house.* He did all in his power to distress her hope, and shake her confidence in God. Scarcely ever before had she experienced such exercise of spirit, which continued for some hours; in which she wrestled earnestly with God, and called upon her Christian friend to wrestle for her. But, at length, the Lord graciously rebuked the adversary; broke in upon her mind with light; filled her soul with peace; and enabled her to triumph in the *full assurance of hope.* After this time, though she was sometimes sharply exercised with pain and distress in her outward frame, her *mind* was quite calm, and comfortably stayed upon God.

On Tuesday morning (Feb. 22, 1803.) having had a very painful and restless night, I found her extremely weak in body, but in a most sweetly en-



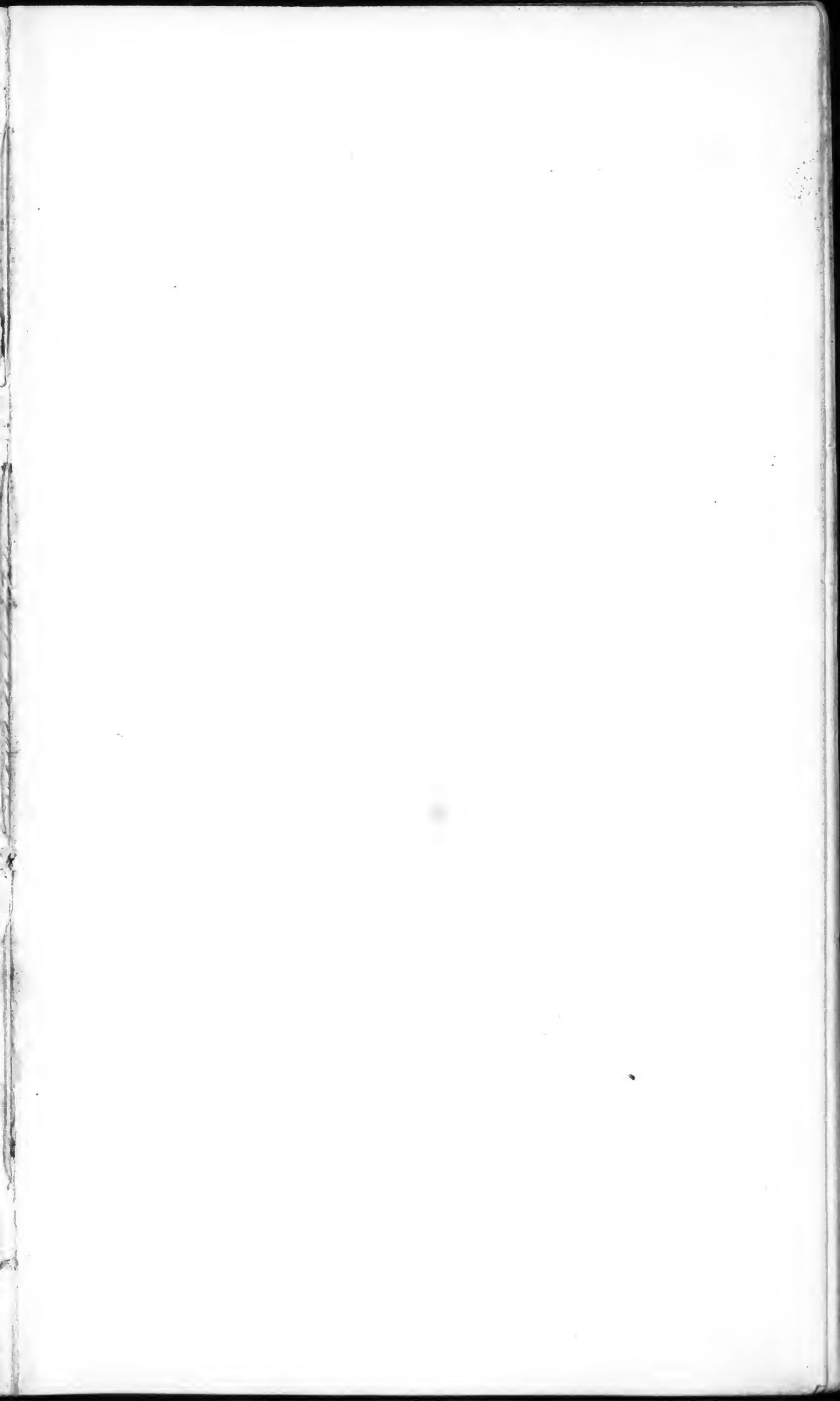


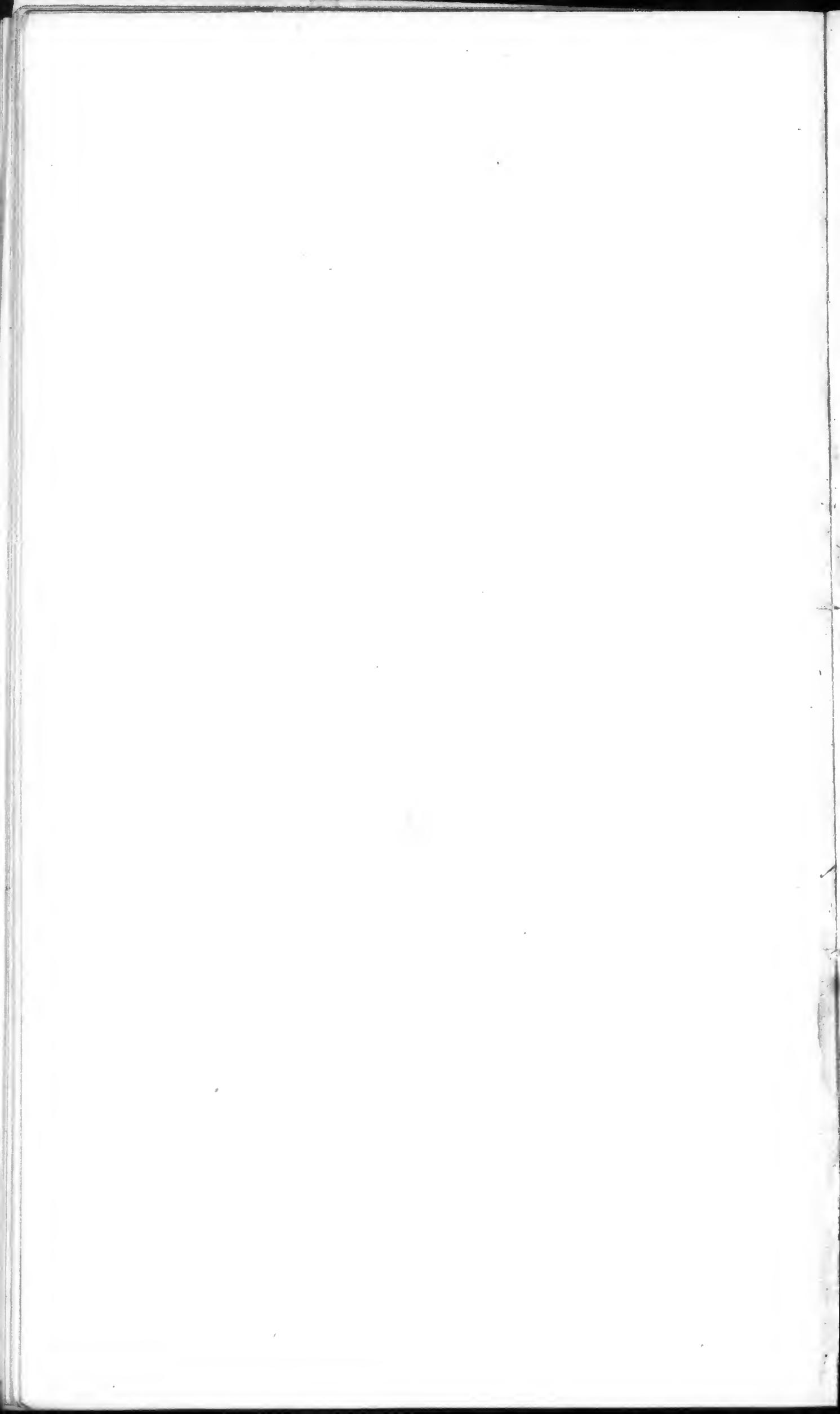
larged frame of soul, rejoicing in a sense of God's presence with her, and in the victory which he had given her over the enemies of her peace. She said to me, 'Blessed be God, I have peace ; he is mine, and I am his : Victory, victory through the blood of the Lamb ! He hath set my soul at liberty.' A little afterwards she added, 'I have had wonderful manifestations of God to my soul, far beyond many : But I have always been afraid of saying too much, rather than too little ; wishing rather that my life and conversation should witness to the truth of my profession. So far as I know my own heart, it has been my desire and study, to adorn the doctrine of God my Saviour in all things. But I would have no encomiums passed on me ; **I AM A SINNER, SAVED FREELY BY GRACE :** Grace, divine grace, is worthy to have all the glory.'— 'Some people, she said, I have heard speak much of our being faithful to the grace of God ; as if they rested much on their *own* faithfulness : I never could bear this ; it is GOD'S FAITHFULNESS to *his own word of promise*, that is my only security for salvation.' Then, adverting to the gospel which she had professed, and the foundation of her hope towards God, as laid in the atoning blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ, she raised herself into a solemn attitude, and with most striking emphasis delivered, in the following language, her dying testimony to the truth as it is in Jesus. " *I here declare it before you, that I have looked on*

the right hand and on the left ; I have cast my eyes before and behind ; to see if there was any possible way of salvation, but by the son of God? And I am fully satisfied there is not ; no, none on earth, nor all the angels in heaven, could have wrought out salvation for such a sinner : None but the Son of God himself, taking our nature upon him, and doing all that the holy law required, could have procured pardon for me a sinner. He has wrought out salvation for ME, and I know that I shall enjoy it for ever."

The same morning, when her friend Mr. Merrill called in upon her, she said to him, "I have had many sweet visits from God with you ; and we shall rejoice together above. *Holy, holy, holy Lord God, how shall I praise thee for what thou hast done for us?* Eternity will be too short to speak his praise.—I am not able to speak, but God knows we are friends ; we love each other ; and we shall meet to part no more."

Tuesday night she passed with great restlessness and pain, which held her for many hours, being evidently the pangs of approaching dissolution ; but through all she was kept from discovering the least impatience, and at every interval was lifting up her soul to God, that he would be gracious to her, and grant her a sweet release ; observing at the same time, '*The Lord's time is best, the Lord's will be done in us.*' By the motions of her lips and eyes, as well as by the words she uttered





occasionally, it appeared, that she was continually conversing with God, and commanding her departing spirit into his hands who had redeemed her. Several times she mentioned with greatly sensibility these words, "When will his chariot wheels advance, to call his exiled home? Sweet Jesus, come quickly, and set my soul at rest."

Wednesday morning (Feb. 23d.) being somewhat revived, she observed, 'I have been exceeding low for some time, that I could not speak much; but Glory be to God, *Jesus is mine, and I am his, and that's enough for me.*'—The Revd. Mr. S. calling upon her, she was enabled to express with great clearness, and in a very striking manner, her full persuasion of the *certainty of the GOSPEL HOPE*, and the *comfortable assurance she had*, that in a little while she should join the blessed and glorious throng above, in singing the praises of God and the Lamb for ever.—The rest of the day she was much exercised with pain of body, but her soul was almost continually wrestling with God in prayer; and about midnight she fell asleep in Jesus, with these words, which were the last that could be understood, "**GLORY BE TO THEE, MY GOD, PEACE THOU GIVEST ME.**"



*These Memoirs I close with inserting 'a HYMN,
composed by the deceased, which I found among
my Father's Papers.*

I.

Lift up your eyes to Sion's hill,
Ye followers of the Lamb ;
Who in one mind and spirit strive,
And for the faith contend.

II.

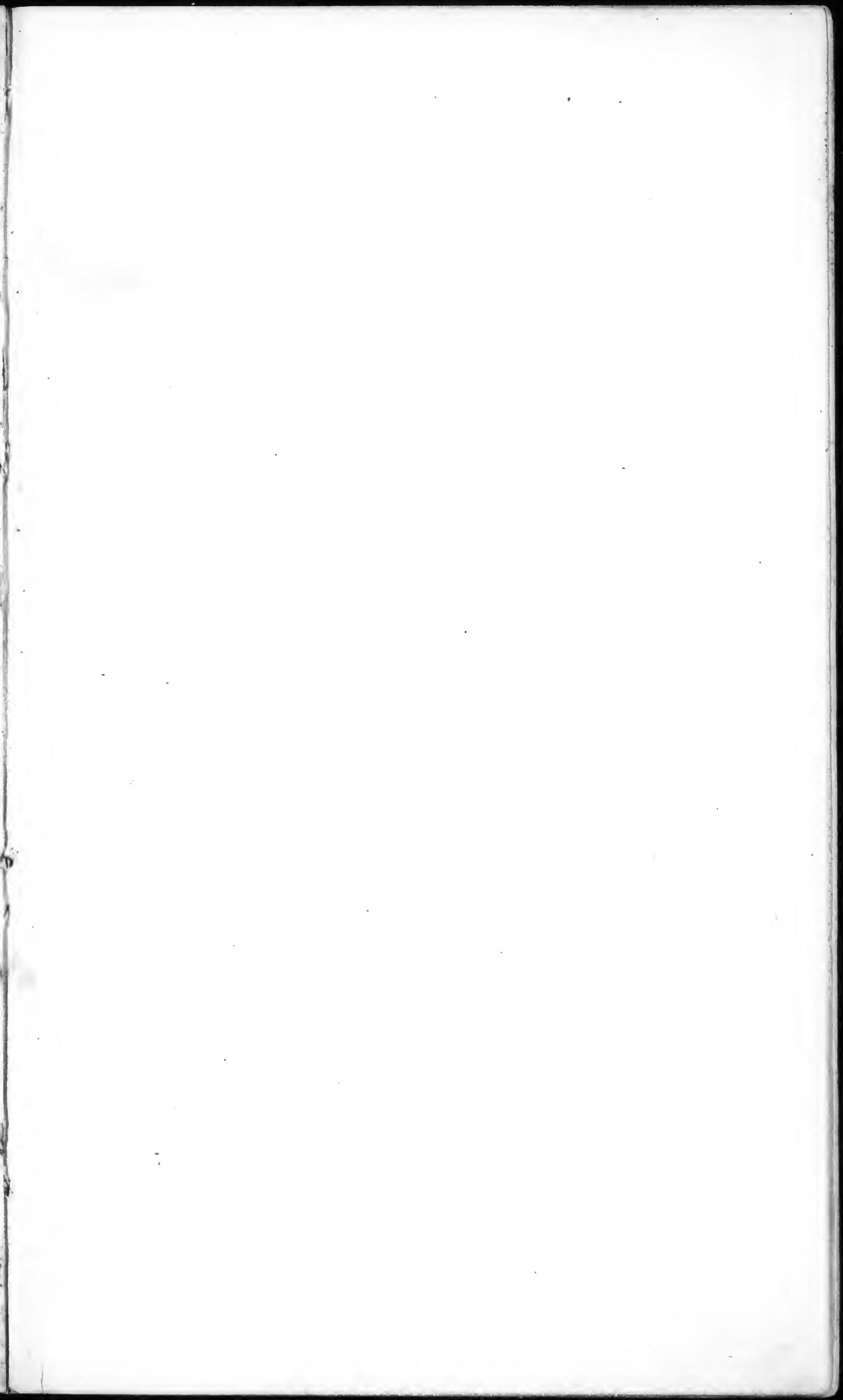
* Courage, your Captain cries, be strong,
Nor fear to win the day ;
Tho' death and hell should both combine,
To take your crown away.

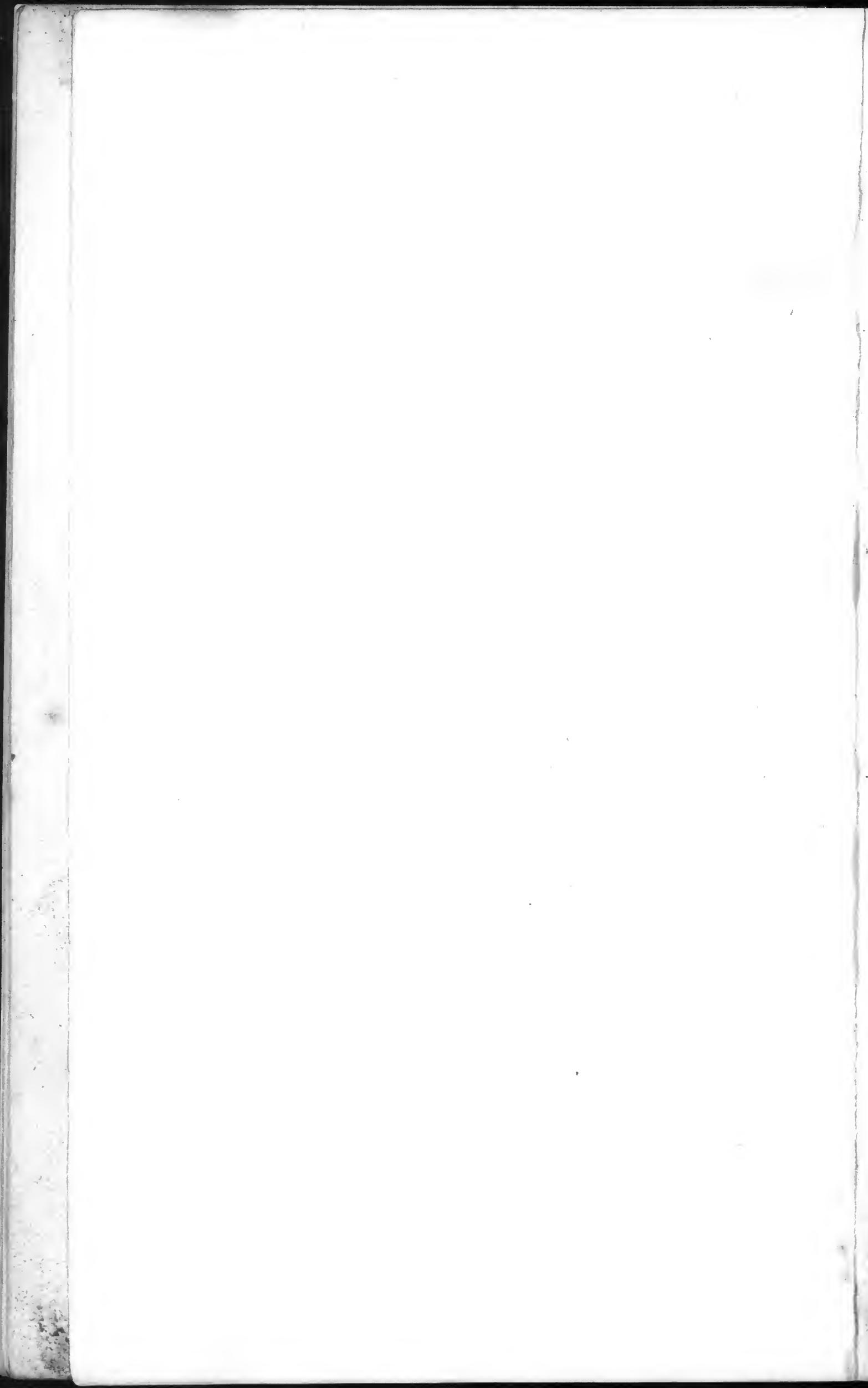
III.

My promise stands for ever sure,
And never shall remove ;
Believe, look up, and hear my voice,
Be steadfast in my love.

IV.

You shall o'ercome, through strength divine,
And more than conquerors be ;
In patience then possess your souls,
And always look to me.'





V.

Oh let us all with one consent,
 My fellow soldiers dear,
 In patient hope keep looking up,
 Till Christ our head appear.

VI.

And let us lawfully contend,
 And for the prize pursue;
 And take the crown that Christ has won,
 And wear it as our due.

